Space shuttle Columbia with 7 astronauts explodes

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER Sunday
BALANCED NEWS, FEARL VIEWS

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PDI's Job Market goes nationwide

By Leila B. Salaverria

TO MAKE things easier for job hunters and employers, the INQUIRER's Job Market will go nationwide beginning today, targeting millions of people

PDI'S/A17

CAPE CANAVERAL, Florida — NASA declared an emergency after losing communication with space shuttle Columbia as the ship soared over Texas several minutes before its expected landing time Saturday morning.

The shuttle was carrying the first Israeli astronaut and six Americans, and authorities had feared it would be a terrorist target.

Fifteen minutes after the expected landing time, and with no word from the shuttle, NASA announced that

SPACE SHUTTLE/A17

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph February 2, 2003 ★★★ 88 pages / 8 sections / vol. 18 / no. 56 P15 website: www.inq7.net

US general to tackle RP role in Iraq war

Transit, post-war ops being considered

By Jennie L. Ilustre
PDI Washington Correspondent
and TJ Burgonio *in Manila*

THE PHILIPPINES could serve as a transit point and help in post-war operations in Iraq, an American official has reportedly proposed to the US Army chief of staff. The Philippines' role in the looming war between the United States and Iraq will be the subject of a meeting next week between Philippine defense officials and the US Army chief, reliable sources told the INQUIRER in Washington.

INQUIRER sources in Washington said Gen. Eric K. Shinseki would stop over in Manila in the course of a swing through Asia to meet with Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes; Gen. Dionisio Santiago, chief of staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines; and Gen. Gregorio Camiling Jr., commander of the Philippine Army.

On Feb. 19, Reyes is to meet with US Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld on the invitation of the Pentagon, the sources said. They said the meeting had been set for Jan. 29 but that the Pentagon had asked for a new date.

The sources said that amid the United States' efforts to enlist the support of other countries in its planned military action against Iraq, Shinseki had discreetly sounded off in Washington on "whether the Philippines can offer participation."

An official supposedly told Shinseki that sending untrained Philippine troops was out of the question. However, the official supposedly said, the Philippines could serve as a transit point and also help in post-war operations in Iraq.

Foreign Secretary Blas Ople said as early as December that while the US government had yet to make a formal request, the Philippines could grant it overflight and refueling rights, transit of forces and overnight stays for weary troops.

"Our Mutual Defense Treaty binds us to help the US," Ople told the Foreign Correspondents Association of the Philippines, referring to the 1951 treaty that requires the two countries to assist

US GENERAL/A16

2003: Melinda now 23 and on the media staff of Sen.Loren Legarda will take the civil service eligibility exams in April and has applied to take the Licensure Examination for Teachers. Her persistence to study and excel brought her to where she is today. DENNIS SABANGAN

From the streets to the top of the world

1995: Residents of the sidewalk,Melinda with mother Liwayway were vendors living in a cart where she was born at the corner of Pedro Gil and Gen.Luna streets in Paco, Manila. PDI PHOTO

Melinda de Vera story continues to inspire

By Gerald G. Lacuarta

WHEN you see her, there is nothing in her to show she was once a street kid, save perhaps for a small and frail frame that indicated a life of hunger, sickness and deprivation.

But her life is an open book. INQUIRER readers on Dec. 26, 1995, read the touching story of a 16-year-old street vendor living in a cart where she was born, right next to a fastfood restaurant at the corner of Pedro Gil and Gen. Luna Streets in Paco where she also sold cigarettes to earn for food and allowance. She and her mother slept on a wooden cot supported by fruit crates.

Melinda, now 23, has since finished school and is halfway through fulfilling a dream. She has been working for Sen. Loren Legarda since last year as a member of her media staff at the Senate.

Just seven years ago, Melinda was one of the thousands of street children who lived on the streets of the city. Uncertain of her future while hawking cigarettes, she lived in the pavement with her mother in Paco in a makeshift dwelling. They had only an umbrella over their heads while she studied by the light of a nearby lamppost.

It was Melinda's persistence to excel in school despite the odds that brought her to where she is today. Her story may not have a rags-to-riches fairytale ending yet but it definitely is one that should inspire street children to dream beyond

FROM/A16

GMA-Bush meeting at Oval Office set in April

By Jennie L. Ilustre
PDI Washington Correspondent

WASHINGTON—US President George W. Bush will meet with President Macapagal-Arroyo at the Oval Office in early April to discuss the Philippine economy as well as the US-led efforts against terrorism.

When Ms Macapagal comes to the US capital in the first week of April, it will be in a state visit complete with a pomp-and-circumstance welcome at the White House's south lawn, several sources told the INQUIRER. This, they said, would send the signal that Bush valued the Philippine President, the first Asian leader to call him and offer strong support after the 9/11 terrorist attacks in 2001.

The White House meeting is reportedly tentatively scheduled on April 3. A State Department official told the INQUIRER on Jan. 31 that the meeting's agenda "depends on the world events taking place at the time of the visit."

Philippine Ambassador Albert del Rosario was tight-lipped on the matter. He avoided reporters after meeting with State Department officials, and

GMA-BUSH/A16

Domestics are teachers once again

By Villamor Visaya Jr.
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

CAUAYAN CITY—Maryfe Lacambra, 27, no longer holds a broom and a rag to go to work. Lacambra, a former maid in Hong Kong, now prepares her daily lesson plans to face Isabela children who are eager to learn at the Cauayan North Central School here.

Lacambra is among the overseas Filipino workers who have returned to participate in the government's "Balik Turo" program.

Under the program, about 1,000 OFWs with education degrees have returned to the country to apply for teaching positions in elementary and high schools in various parts of the country.

Education Undersecretary Ramon Bacani signed the permanent appointments of the OFW-teachers last December.

"I have to find schools with understaffed teaching force to accommodate these teachers," Tumamao said.

"Of course, I could not deploy them in their own towns because schools there are overstaffed. I have to find a place for them in areas where teachers are most needed."

DOMESTICS/A17

Tancangco gets whiff of the perfumed set

By Christine O. Avendaño

WITH their buffed hairstyle and fine jewelry and manners, some of the toughest women of the perfumed set came in full force last week to back civil society's impeachment case against Elections Commissioner Luzviminda Tancangco.

Bea Zobel, wife of business tycoon Jaime Zobel de Ayala, attended the House session for two straight days to witness how lawmakers would vote on the impeachment case.

"I am here as a good citizen," Zobel told the INQUIRER last Wednesday. She pointed out that she has always been against corruption.

Asked to react on the proceedings on Tuesday night where congressmen were allowed to question the House justice committee report that sought to junk the impeachment complaint, Zobel said: "I don't understand the attitude of the congressmen. Their duty is to investigate cases under suspicion . . . They seem to have all kinds of excuses."

"At the end of the day, they should take a stand on what's right or wrong," she said. "If Congress has no moral values, there is no hope for this country."

The House began floor debates last week on the committee report, but voting was deferred twice due to lack of quorum. Some congressmen were observed to have deliberately left the House Wednesday night so no voting could be held.

Tancangco's impeachment is being sought for alleged graft and neglect of duty, betrayal of public trust and culpable violation of the Constitution.

At the House gallery with Zobel last Wednesday were Mercy Tuason, Ching Montinola, Maribel Ongpin, actress Jeanne Young, Maur Aquino-Lichauco and Evelyn Kilayco. Also seen were former Environment Secretary Heherson Alvarez, University of the Philippines professor and INQUIRER columnist Solita Monsod, INQUIRER columnist

TANCANGCO/A16

DUTY calls for civic-spirited women led by Bea Zobel (center) and Mercy Tuazon (right) spotted at the House gallery. ERNIE U SARMIENTO

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Visayas and Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to at times cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers.
SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/02/02/03

E-mail: pr_news@inquirer.com.ph

Second FRONT PAGE

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

Blanket amnesty: Take it or leave it

By Norman Bordadora

THE GOVERNMENT is ready to offer a blanket amnesty to all communist rebels if they sign the draft peace agreement that President Macapagal-Arroyo is offering.

However, the draft agreement is meant to be the final accord and no longer negotiable, said Foreign Secretary Blas Ople as he outlined to reporters late Friday this carrot-and-stick, take-it-or-leave-it approach.

"They will no longer be regarded as terrorists," he said.

But only upon the signing of the agreement would the government ask other countries, including the United States and the European Union, to remove the CPP-NPA and Sison from their lists of foreign terrorist organizations.

"They can lead normal lives that they have denied themselves for three decades... Isn't the government offer tempting?" said Ople.

"The NDF tactic has been to nibble at the edges of the issues while milking every incremental step for its propaganda value. This will no longer happen," Ople said.

If they reject the draft agreement, Ople said only one fate awaits the Communist Party of the Philippines, its political arm, the National Democratic Front, and its armed wing, the New People's Army: "They will join their cause in the dustbin of history."

From his exile in the Netherlands, CPP founding chair Jose Ma. Sison yesterday said that while the government was entitled to draft a so-called final peace agreement as its negotiating position, it should not try to impose it on the NDF with an ultimatum.

He said in a statement that before talks can start, both panels would have to go "into some amount of exploratory or preparatory talks using the existing agreements in order to solve problems that can impede the resumption of the formal negotiations."

The proposed final accord has set aside past agreements signed under former President Fidel Ramos in favor of a "comprehensive" version that was crafted in a series of meetings of the Cabinet Oversight Committee.

The President approved it last month amid the furor caused by the NPA's assassination of its former chief Romulo Kintanar.

The NDF, which is negotiating for the communists, has yet to receive a copy of the draft. Sison now acts as the NDF's chief political consultant.

Ople said that with the fall of communism in Europe, the most rational choice for the Philippine communists was to accept the government's draft peace pact.

"They can go back to their loved ones, send their children to school and prepare a bright future for them," he said.

The government's priority was not Sison's repatriation, but to have him sign the peace agreement, Ople said.

Sison faces murder charges for, among others, the killing of Kintanar and of former Cagayan governor Rodolfo Aguinaldo.

Ople said the Dutch government had already committed itself to surrender Sison who lives in exile in Utrecht.

"If he signs the peace agreement, then he will be covered by a blanket amnesty, a total and absolute amnesty, which by definition is forgetfulness or oblivious. That means (for) everyone of them, (the government) will wipe the slate clean," Ople said. *With a report from Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

OPLE: Draft agreement no longer negotiable

Ka Roger: Only a handful in NPA hit list

LUCENA CITY—Only a few "counter-revolutionary traitors" are actual targets of the New People's Army, Communist Party of the Philippines spokesperson Gregorio "Ka Roger" Rosal clarified yesterday in the wake of what he called the "orchestrated hype" about a bloody NPA crackdown on its foes.

He said the NPA, the party's armed wing, was out to punish only "a few counter-revolutionary diehards pro-ven to have committed heinous crimes and incurred blood debts against the people and the revolutionary movement."

The military last week released an alleged NPA hit list that included the names officials and former revolutionaries, following the killing by a communist hit squad of Romulo Kintanar, the former NPA chief, by a comunist hit squad in Quezon City.

"Kintanar would have been spared if not for his capital crimes and counter-revolutionary activities," Rosal said in a statement.

Rosal said the "hype" was being orchestrated by the "traitors" who fear liquidation by the NPA and wished to portray the CPP/NPA as "vengeful, bloodthirsty and indiscriminate killers."

He said these groups were working with the military and the "psywar mill" of the government.

Rosal included in this alleged conspiracy two breakaway groups from the CPP, the Revolutionary Proletarian Army-Alex Boncayao Brigade and the Rebolusyonaryung Hukbong Bayan, which he said have long been working with the military and the police.

"These armed groups have formal and informal agreements with the regime to conduct counter-insurgency operations," Rosal said. *Delfin T. Mallari Jr. PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Sex scandal splits ranks of bishops

By A. Nocum

THE SEX scandal involving a bishop who fathered a child has divided the membership of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines, with some bishops and archbishops urging the CBCP leadership to take a firmer stand against erring priests.

Church insiders said the websites of Manila Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin, Papal Nuncio Archbishop Antonio Franco and CBCP president Archbishop Orlando Quevedo have been flooded with e-mails from people volunteering information on the alleged lover of Bishop Crisostomo Yalung.

These developments have prompted some of the more progressive members to ask CBCP officials to call a press conference on the issue.

"What's the use of hiding it when it is in the Internet anyway?" said a bishop who expressed displeasure over the reluctance of Church officials to face the media.

Yalung was the bishop of Antipolo until late last year when he resigned reportedly after it was known that he had fathered a child.

Since the story on the Yalung case came out in the Inquirer last Wednesday, CBCP officials have refused to speak to Church reporters.

They did agree to issue two terse statements, quoting Yalung's assertions in his letter to his parishioners and an appeal to leave Yalung alone.

They also denied issuing a ban against clerics speaking to the media on the issue.

Yalung's successor, Bishop Gabriel Reyes, arranged for a press conference last Wednesday, but cancelled it at the last minute.

"Now, it will hurt the Church even more," said the bishop, commenting on a reported agreement among bishops and priests to refrain from talking about the Yalung case.

The Church hierarchy has come under severe criticism amid reports that it had tried to keep a lid on the scandal, particularly during last week's 4th World Meeting of Families.

The bishop, who asked not to be named, said the more progressive bishops are urging Church leaders to impose harsher sanctions on priests involved in sexual misconduct.

"Sexual misconduct issues are bad enough, but what's worse is for the Church to condone it. That is something that parishioners—discerning as they are—are not likely to accept," he said.

He said that although CBCP members who hold this view were in the minority, their ranks have grown as more and more cases of priests breaking their vows of celibacy have surfaced.

But another bishop, who takes the same view as the first source, said the "moderates" and "traditionalists" are bound to win when the CBCP comes out with a protocol on sexual misconduct in July.

He counted Quevedo among the moderates.

Quevedo told a media briefing earlier this week that the Church leadership was inclined toward a policy that would look after both the erring priest's and the victim's interest.

"What we are looking at is the welfare of both parties, the victim or the partner, and also the priest or the religious who might be involved," he said.

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35 Chinese illegals spend new year in jail

By Blanche S. Rivera

THIRTY-FIVE Chinese illegals spent the lunar new year in jail after they were arrested by agents of the Bureau of Immigration at a shopping mall in San Juan Friday.

They were caught illegally selling assorted ceramic jars from China at the Greenhills Shopping Center in violation of the Retail Trade Act.

This brought to 89 the number of vendors from mainland China arrested for engaging in retail trade in the country without permit from the BI.

Immigration Commissioner Andrea Domingo said that the arrests were part of the agency's crackdown on foreigners doing business in the Philippines without securing permits.

The BI has conducted five operations against foreigners engaged in illegal retail trade. The last raid was conducted with operatives from the naval intelligence.

Many of the Chinese vendors earlier arrested were caught selling their goods in malls in Quiapo, Baclaran, Divisoria and Harrison Plaza.

The Retail Trade Act prescribes a minimum capital of $250,000 for foreigners who want to engage in business in the Philippines.

They are also required to register their enterprises with the Securities and Exchange Commission, Department of Trade and Industry, and the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas.

Although some foreigners may hold resident visas, this did not give them the right to engage in retail business, Domingo said.

Many of the detained foreigners have volunteered to leave the country.

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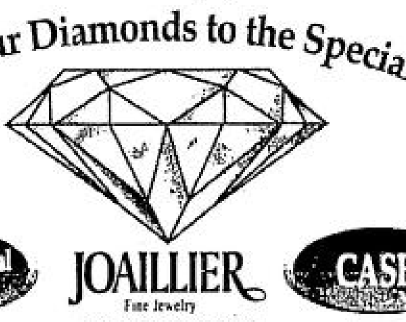

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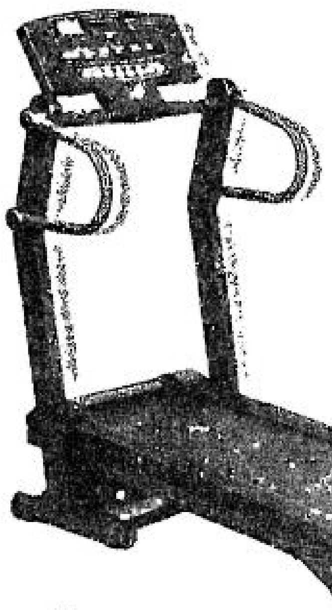

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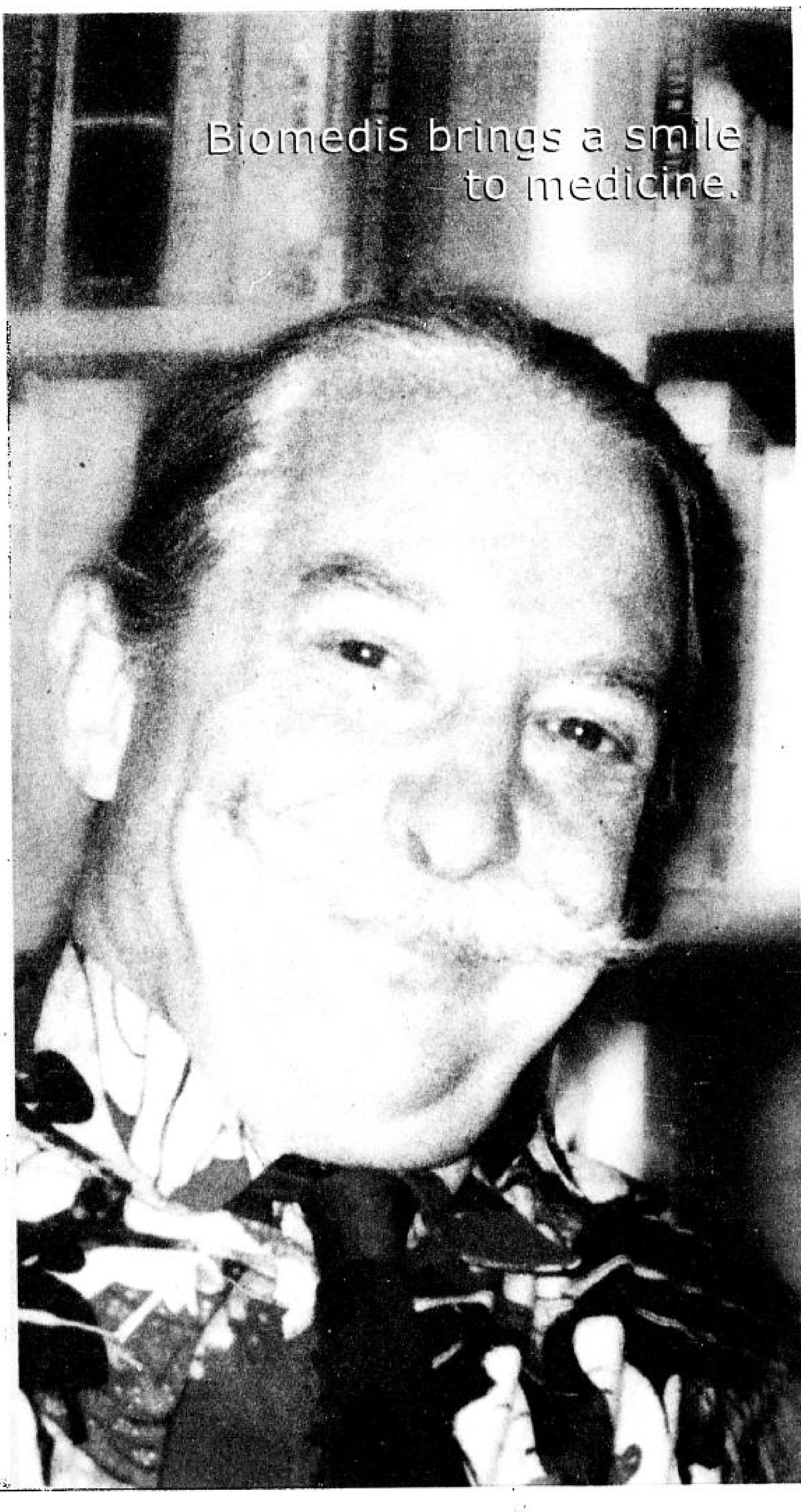
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- The author of two books, Gesundheit! (with Mylene Mylander) and Housecalls.
- Travels, works and speaks around the world where he is considered a class E speaker (highest category). A professional clown from street to stage, he has also traveled to Bosnia, Afghanistan, Russia and recently, to Palestine, to spread the joy of service.
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- A strong believer that the concept of malpractice breaks down each potential human loving relationship between patient and physician, and turns it into a business transaction.
- Recipient of various awards and honors for his innovative and unique brand of healing: Award from the American Association for Therapeutic Humor, Heroes in Healthcare (1998), The Courage of Conscience Award, the Peace Abbey (1997), Institute of Noetic Science Award for Creative Altruism (1994) and the Boise Peace Quilt Award (1988).

GMA relaxes gun ban order

By TJ Burgonio

CLEARLY under pressure from pro-gun advocates protesting her total gun ban order, President Macapagal-Arroyo has allowed police authorities to issue permits to carry firearms outside of residences (PTCFORs) to individuals under threat, officials said yesterday.

Only two days before, Ms Macapagal instructed Philippine National Police chief Hermogenes Ebdane Jr. to cancel all permits to carry guns issued to civilian gun owners and offered a one-year amnesty to owners of unlicensed firearms for them to register their weapons.

Advocates of responsible gun ownership protested the ban, warning that this would leave civilians defenseless against gun-toting criminals.

Yesterday, the President directed Ebdane to issue PTCFORs to those whose lives are under threat, according Senior Supt. Geary Barias, the director of the PNP firearms and explosives division.

Ebdane earlier said that anyone wishing to be exempted from the ban must show proof of the actual threat on his life. He said police intelligence officers must confirm the threat.

"There must be an actual threat. It must be validated by the chief of police in the area where the individual resides or where an incident happened, and will be further validated by the regional intelligence officer," he said.

Until the gun ban, the PNP had been issuing PTCFORs to individuals regardless of whether there were threats to their lives, according to Barias. The police has so far issued some 31,000 PCTFORs.

Reynaldo "Nandy" Pacheco, the head of the Gunless Society, expressed some doubt over Ms Macapagal's latest order, saying that any threat does not justify the arming of oneself.

"Exemptions are dangerous. When you start granting exemptions, that spells trouble," Pacheco said in a phone interview.

Officers of the Professional, Responsible Owners of Gun (Pro-gun) could not be reached for comment.

Trade Secretary Mar Roxas yesterday said an effective gun control would further boost investor confidence.

Roxas has expressed concern over a recent series of incidents of hijacking, highway robberies and pilferage of goods experienced by exporters operating in the economic zones of Cavite and Laguna.

"These criminal acts were carried out successfully because the perpetrators were fully armed," he said in a statement.

Roxas said the government has to further strengthen law enforcement to inspire confidence among citizens, particularly business owners and executives.

Today is World Wetlands Day

HUH? Clue: Theme of the celebration is "No Wetlands, No Water."

Over a hundred countries are set to recall the signing of the Convention on Wetlands on Feb. 2., 1971 in the Iranian city of Ramsar on the shores of the Caspian Sea. The first modern global treaty on conservation of natural resources focused on wetlands as sources of fresh water and food, and home to a rich variety of flora and fauna.

The convenors identified wetlands as "areas of marsh, peatland or water, whether natural or artificial, permanent or temporary, with water that is static, flowing, freath, brackish or salt, including areas of marine water, the depth of which at low tide does not exceed six meters."

. These included reefs flats and seagrass beds in coastal areas, mudflats, mangroves, estuaries, rivers, freshwater marshes, swamp forests, saline marshes and lakes.

Some 1,200 wetland sites all over the world, covering a total of 103.3 million hectares, have been designated for inclusion in the List of Wetlands of International Importance. Four of these are found in the Philippines: Olango Island Wildlife Sanctuary in Cebu, Naujan Lake National Park in Oriental Mindoro, Agusan Marsh Wildlife Sanctuary in Agusan del Sur, and Tubbataha Reefs National Park in Palawan.

Growth stats 'meaningless'

By Cynthia D. Balana

"MEANINGLESS" was how senators described yesterday the announced 4.6 percent economic growth in the gross domestic product and 5.2 percent growth in the gross national product last year.

Their reason: these were hardly felt by most Filipinos.

Sen. Edgardo Angara said he was sure the numbers reported by President Macapagal-Arroyo, though he had not seen them, reflected a "tremendous expansion for the rich, not the poor."

For growth to be meaningful, Angara said, it should be equitable. "I'd like to see the jobs created by that expansion."

The declining enrollment rate in provincial schools was another proof that the alleged growth had not reached the rural areas, he said. "Parents have no money for their children's education."

Sen. Aquilino Pimentel held the same view: "If you ask the man on the street, he will tell you (the report) is hardly reason for him to be happy."

The real economic situation was evident in the government's cash flow problems and P220 billion budget deficit, Pimentel said.

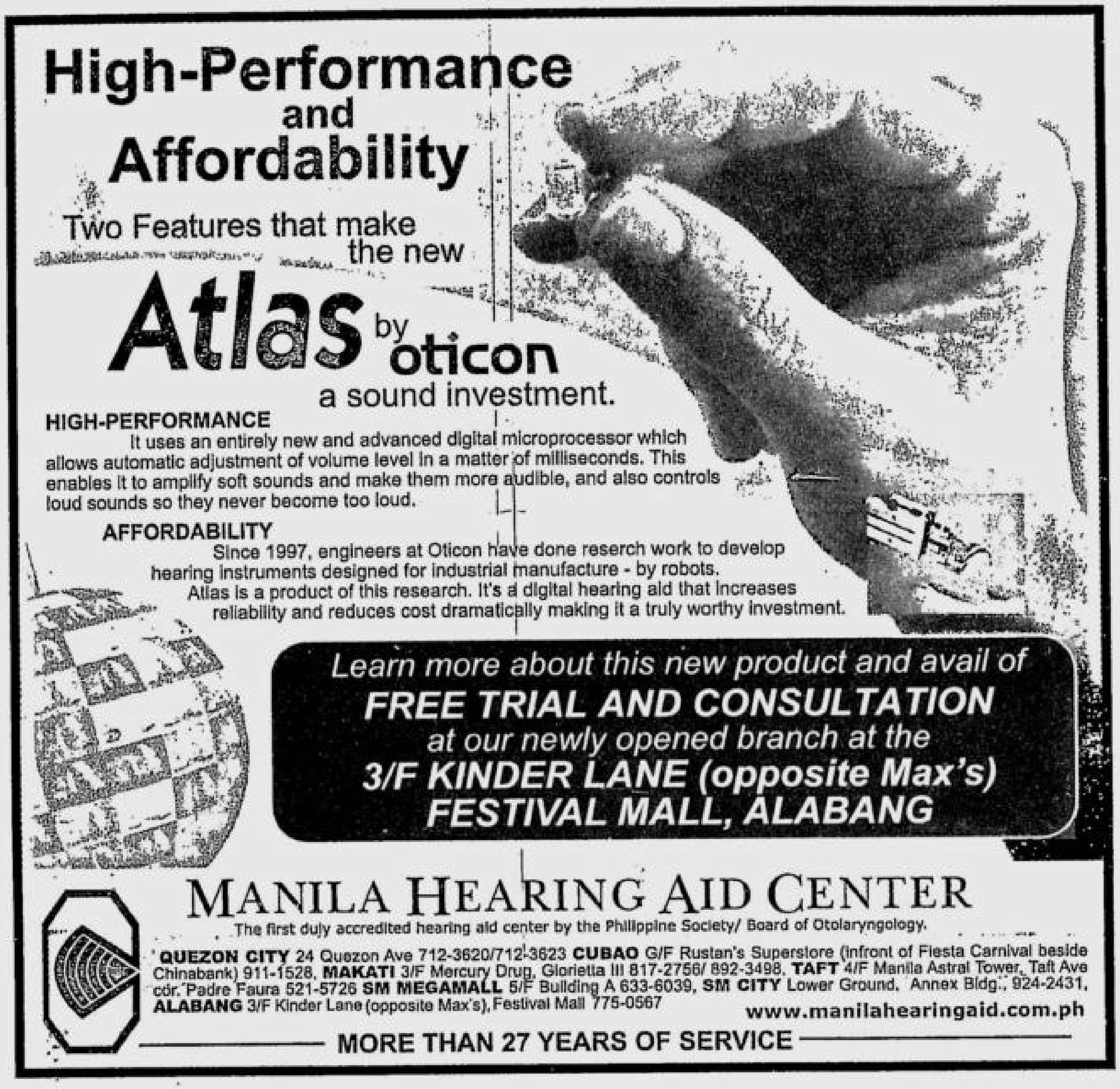
Test broadcast on M band pushed

CONGRESSMEN looking into the growing controversy over the proposal to open the country's radio industry to new players are pushing for an immediate test broadcast to determine whether it is feasible to amend the regulation governing the number of stations that can operate on the M band.

Rep. Miguel Zubiri, chair of the House committee on legislative franchises, said a test broadcast on FM would determine once and for all the feasibility of opening the FM spectrum to new players and boost the country's radio industry.

The House committees on legislative franchises and transportation and communication chaired by Rep. Jacinto Paras started joint hearings on the controversy after Zubiri's committee endorsed a resolution filed by Rep. Mayo Almario seeking an inquiry into why grantees of legislative franchises for TV and radio were unable to operate and in some cases had their franchises lapse without operating.

"Other industries are being deregulated so why not the open the (FM radio) frequencies to give consumers more choices?," Zubiri said at the hearing.



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2 small boats carrying 25 people missing

ZAMBOANGA CITY—Two boats carrying 25 people have gone missing in the waters off Mindanao, a navy report said in Zamboanga City on Saturday.

The first boat, the ML Rabla, was a small ferry with 19 people aboard which departed the island of Taganak on Tuesday, bound for the southernmost islands of Tawi-tawi.

The second boat, the ML Parhana-2, had a crew of six and a cargo of bananas, and left Mapun island for Tawi-Tawi later on the same day, the Navy said. However, both boats failed to arrive at their destination.

A Navy task force was dispatched to search for the boats and their passengers but had so far found no trace of them. *AFP*

Senate to probe boat sinkings

SEN. Manuel Villar Jr. is seeking a Senate inquiry into the arrest of 49 Filipino fishermen and the sinking of their boats by the Indonesian Navy last week.

Villar, chair of the Senate foreign relations committee, said he will file a Senate resolution calling for a probe on Monday.

In a press statement, he also urged foreign affairs officials to file a diplomatic protest against Indonesia if it is determined that the human rights of fishermen were violated in the incident. He said there is also a need to determine if the Indonesian navy violated the rules of engagement.

"We must take the necessary steps to ensure that the rights of Filipino fishermen are not violated," he explained.

Villar said the Indonesian authorities should have been more prudent in catching the fishermen instead of firing at their ships.

"The way the Indonesian authorities handled the incident endangered the lives of Filipino fishermen," he said.

"We should not allow foreigners to treat our countrymen shabbily even if they are caught doing something against their laws," he said.

Villar said the Indonesian navy overreacted to the situation.

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The need to keep the blood flowing

DID YOU know that many health disorders are oftentimes associated with poor blood circulation? Hypertension, edema, diabetes, migraine, varicose veins, hemorrhoids and menstrual cramps, to name a few, are some problems that can be avoided with proper flow of blood through the heart and the rest of the body.

Circulation's primary purpose is for the heart to pump blood freshly supplied with oxygen throughout the body, thereby, allowing tissues to be supplied with nutrients. The "used" blood is then pumped into the lungs so carbon dioxide waste can be discarded before returning the blood to the heart.

With good circulation, not only can health problems be minimized, but it can also ensure that the body's organs function properly and maintain balance in the entire system.

Disruption of this circulatory function, on the other hand, does the complete opposite and may lead to even more serious circulatory diseases.

Some of the more known circulatory disorders include: arteriosclerosis (hardening of the arteries) which, in extreme cases, leads to aneurysm; Buerger's disease brought about by chronic inflammation of the blood vessels in the extremities; blood clots which partially or completely block a blood vessel and referred to as deep vein thrombosis; or Raynaud's phenomenon which involves the constriction and spasm of blood vessels in the extremities.

Most people wouldn't know, however, whether they have good or poor blood circulation. There are tell-tale signs that serve as clear warnings of poor blood flow such as pain in the legs (most often in the calves), palpitation and dizziness, chest discomfort, light-headedness and fainting, and blue tinge in toes, fingers, wrist, hands or feet.

Dr. Gary Sy, Diplomate in Geriatric Medicine, Sports, Preventive and Family Medicine and a medical broadcaster and columnist, recommends a diet high in fiber while avoiding salty and fatty foods, coupled with regular exercise.

He also stresses the importance of keeping one's weight down, pacing one's self and avoiding stimulants like cola, tobacco and coffee to help keep circulation in check.

Through the years, various studies have shown that various herbal extracts help support an improved heart and circulatory system.

The most important and effective of these herbs include *Crataegus* extract (or Hawthorn berries extract), Ginkgo Biloba extract, Garlic Oil and *Melissa Officinalis* extract (Lemon balm).

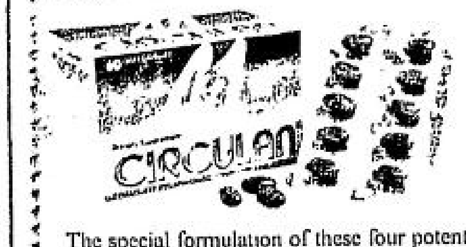
Crataegus or Hawthorn is also one of the most potent antioxidants because its free radical scavenging effect works 50 times better than vitamin E and 20 times better than vitamin C. It similarly helps regulate blood pressure.

Ginkgo biloba increases blood flow to the brain and lower extremeties. It helps reduce the risk of Alzheimer's disease, lower leg cramps, depression, stroke and complications due to diabetes such as retinopathy and renal failure.

Garlic oil, also known as the wonder drug of the herbal world, helps lower cholesterol and triglyceride levels in the blood and acts as an anticoagulant to resolve fresh blood clots.

Lemon balm is a known tonic remedy, which has a calming effect and antispasmodic properties. This makes it helpful in promoting regular menstrual periods while relieving menstrual cramps. It is also used for insomnia, anxiety, and depression.

These herbs help improve circulation but should be taken in proper amounts, in proper formulation. Simply loading up on grapes or berries or garlic does not achieve the effect that the proper formulation and combination of these four major herbs achieves.



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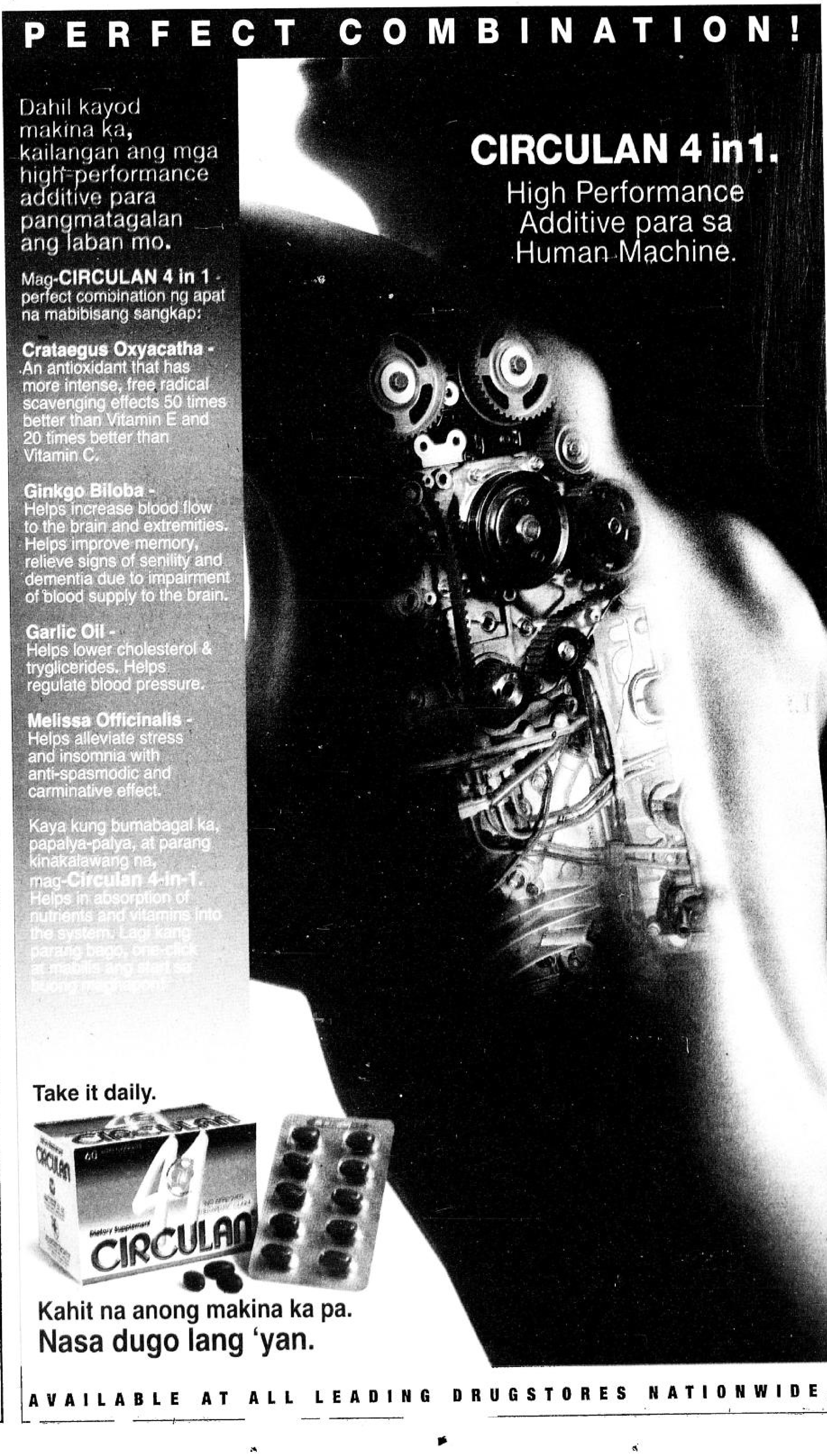

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OPINION

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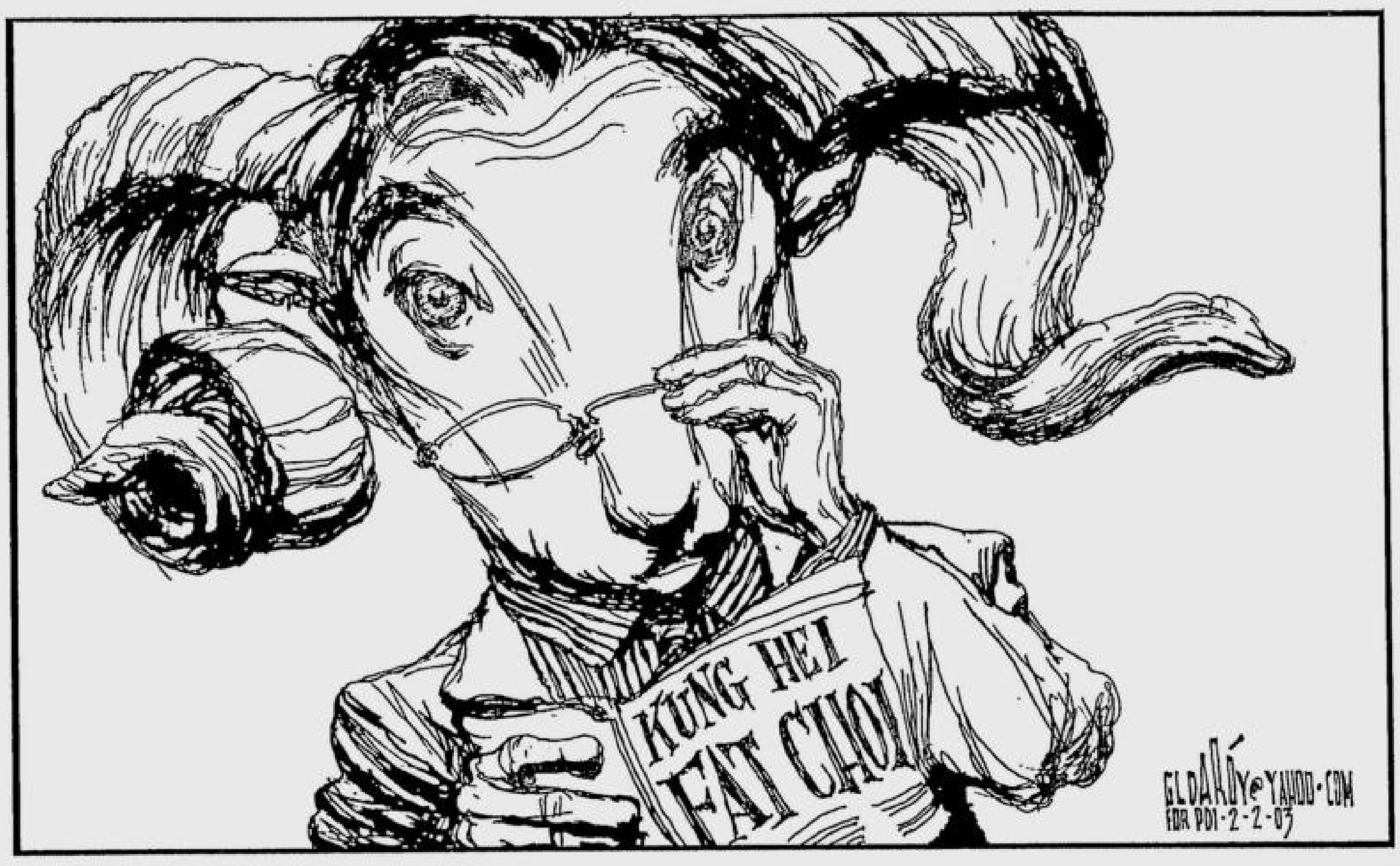

Fallen bishop

EDITORIAL

THE NEWS that Bishop Crisostomo Yalung of Antipolo resigned his post after reportedly fathering a child stunned Catholics still basking in the glow of the Fourth World Meeting of Families.

The resignation was actually announced by the Vatican last Dec. 7, after Yalung left hastily for the United States in mid-November. But it was only last month that the story came together.

In a letter dated Jan. 5 and addressed to "the clergy, the religious and faithful of the Diocese of Antipolo," Yalung tried to clear "undue speculations" caused by his "immediate departure." But because he did not specify his reasons for leaving—aside from an enigmatic admission that he "needed an intense renewal of self in spirituality and on pastoral ministry"—his letter ended up fueling speculation instead of squelching it. "For my errors, I ask God's mercy and your kind indulgence," he wrote, adding that he was committed to rendering his "moral duties toward any person or persons who have been affected by my personal mistake."

Last week, a high-ranking Church official who requested anonymity finally ended the speculation. He told the INQUIRER that Yalung left for the United States to shield the Church from further scandal over his romantic ties with a confessant. "Bishops and priests are also human. In fairness to him, he was very responsible and very realistic. He did not run away from what he did," the source said. Yalung left for the United States after his woman friend gave birth, he added.

A friend of the woman called the paper to say Yalung's friend was a "licensed medical technologist" and not a guest relations officer (used by many as a euphemism for a nightclub hostess). "She's a young woman who happened to fall in love with a bishop," the caller said.

The high-ranking Church official admitted that the Church hierarchy tried to keep the story out of the public eye before and during the historic World Meeting of Families, the first ever to be held in Asía. "But this should be brought out in the open (now) because rumors, innuendos, and other false information are coming out," the official said.

It doesn't help that ordinary language fails us in describing this case. The bishop's friend has been automatically referred to as a mistress or, straining after synonyms, as a paramour—both of which are familiar as terms associated chiefly with marital infidelity. The attempt to pin down the occupation of the woman, as a GRO, is another instinctive reaction, a knee-jerk attempt to "understand" the situation, using familiar categories of thought and experience. Even the sympathetic denial by a cousin of the bishop's—"To say that he got mixed up with a GRO is to say that he went to nightclubs"—misunderstands the nature of a priest's work. It is no exaggeration to say that, through his confessional box, the world (nightclubs included) came to him.

It doesn't help either that news organizations don't quite know how to handle the story (Yalung is the first Filipino bishop to resign under these particular circumstances). After months of media obsession in the United States and in Europe about sexual abuses committed by Roman Catholic priests, the Yalung case was inevitably cast as a "sex scandal." But surely this is a mistake.

This is not a case of pedophilia. This is not a case of pederasty. And from the available information, this is not a case of abuse of authority or confidence either. That there was sex involved is elementary, but this does not make the case a sex scandal. To say so is rather like describing a homicide as a stabbing, or a train wreck as a mere mechanical glitch; it is to substitute one part for the whole.

We do not condone what has happened. If anything, we wish to stress the true nature of the sin. At the consecration of a bishop, the following is said: "May his preaching and speaking be not with the plausible words of human wisdom, but with demonstration of the Spirit and power." Yalung's sin was that he chose to follow the plausible wisdom of human love, rather than the divine, which truly covers a multitude of sins.

The absentee voting bill

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

LIKE so many of our people, I have not read the absentee voting bill, which has not been published in full in the papers, as far as I know. I am informed only of its general objective, viz., to extend the right of suffrage to our countrymen abroad, and the general mechanics for counting their votes in our foreign consulates and embassies.

I have no objection to the stated objective as long as the persons sought to be benefited conform to the suffrage qualifications prescribed in Art. V of the Constitution, among them the residence requirement. I have my misgivings, however, about the enforcement of the rules in our election laws regarding the conduct of the election campaign and the manner of canvassing the votes in the foreign countries where the bill, if approved, will be implemented.

I am particularly concerned with the rules on prohibited election practices like, say, vote-buying, premature and other illegal campaign activities, intervention of foreigners, and, particularly, the casting and counting of votes. These rules are often and flagrantly violated in the Philippines itself, under the nose of our Commission on Elections. I do not see how they can be enforced any more strictly in foreign countries beyond our jurisdiction.

Sometime during the '50s, if memory serves, the opposition candidate from the Nacionalista Party appeared to have won the congressional election in what was then the fourth district of Manila. The usual victory party was held after the votes in the district showed his overwhelming margin. The next day, however, the results changed drastically. When the absentee votes for the district were counted from the Culion leper colony (as then allowed), the Liberal Party candidate emerged the winner.

The losing candidate protested, citing irregularities, but to no avail. The consensus among his enraged supporters was that he had been "robbed" but the administration candidate assumed office and served the full term. This case must have been the principal reason for the subsequent repeal of the provisions in the old election code of absentee voting within the Philippines.

The present bill would resurrect the system *outside* the Philippines and under the jurisdiction of foreign states. We can imagine how much easier it will be to violate or at least disregard our local election law in those places to insure the victory of candidates in the good graces of the administration. If this could be done in the Culion leper colony, there is reason to fear its repetition abroad, and on a wider scale, with only the officials under the Department of Foreign Affairs in control of the proceedings.

And how about the election expenses of the candidates, especially those hoping for the support of the absentee voters? Those who can afford it can campaign in the Filipino communities abroad (and ingratiate themselves with our consular and diplomatic personnel there who will tally and report the votes). But those with limited means will have to stay home and await their defeat from the absentee voters who probably would not know them from Adam.

My other doubt about the bill is the plan to enfranchise Filipinos who are already immigrants or permanent residents abroad. The justification is that they are still citizens of our country and share our interests despite their new status in a foreign land. They are still loyal to the Philippines, where their relatives remain, to whom they remit hundreds of thousands of dollars that strengthen our national economy. Moreover, they have chosen to live abroad only for financial or other valid reasons that have not dissipated their affection for the land of their birth.

Granting all these, Congress will still have to reckon with our Constitution, which confers the right of suffrage only upon Filipino citizens who, among other qualifications, "shall have resided in the Philippines for at least one year and in the place wherein they propose to vote for at least six months immediately preceding the election."

Residence is defined as the place where one habitually lives and to which whenever he is absent he intends to return. It is judicially interpreted in the sense of domicile, which includes the element of permanence. Immigration, according to Bouvier's Law Dictionary, is "the coming into the country of foreigners for permanent residence." Hence, a Filipino who migrates to another country becomes a permanent resident there and should not be allowed to vote in our country as an absentee voter.

The fact that absentee voting has succeeded in some countries does not necessarily mean it will also succeed in the Philippines, where fraudulent elections are among the most serious flaws of our democracy. Before extending the right of suffrage to our qualified citizens abroad, we should first exert earnest efforts to insure the integrity of the ballot in our own backyard.

Sen. Edgardo J. Angara deserves plaudits for his good intentions in espousing the absentee voting bill, but I think a little more homework is necessary.

Amazing

MOMENTS

Fr. Jerry M. Orbos, SVD

"CAN you believe what things people do these days? I was sitting next to this guy in the church, and in the middle of the Mass, he lit a cigarette! I was so shocked I almost dropped my beer!"

* * *

The text message we mentioned above underlines the fact that life is really full of twists and turns, and surprises. The parents of Jesus must have been so surprised when they presented their son to the Lord. (Lk. 2,22-40) They were a simple, ordinary couple who went to Jerusalem to fulfill the requirements of the law, but they ended up "amazed at what was said about Him." First, there was Simeon who said he could die now that he had seen the Child. Then, there was the prophetess Anna who gave thanks to God and spoke about the Child to all who were awaiting the redemption of Jerusalem. Joseph and Mary must have been so puzzled and bewildered, shocked and surprised at all these. Wow! It must have been "*masayadong* too much" and "*sobrang* over" for this simple and ordinary couple.

The fact is that every child is really amazing. There is no telling what a child will turn out to be. So, parents, never underestimate your child, and never set limits on what your child is and can be. Remember, your child has a mission in this world. He/she belongs to God, more than to you. God loves your child more than you can love him/her.

You don't own your child. Your mission is to take care and guide your child so that he or she can live a life that is pleasing and presentable to the Lord.

* * *

Mama always told us when we were young that her greatest joy would be to see all of us live good lives and go to heaven after this life. Her greatest sorrow would be if one of us would not be able to make it to heaven.

For Mama, presentation was not just a personal but a family affair. She believed in living good lives together and going to heaven together.

Today, let us spend some time to pray for and reach out to members of our family who need healing, forgiveness or conversion. They who are hurting are the ones who need our love most.

* * *

Presentable *ka ba kay* Lord? Are you living a life that is pleasing to God? If you were to come before the Lord today, what sort of a life will you present to him? Will you be carrying in your hands presents from a life well lived, or will you come before him empty-handed because all your life was focused on the perishable and the degradable? In other words, are you on the pre-sent or the prepaid lane of life?

* * *

Is there still room for jokes, surprises, wonder and amazement in your life? Have you become so dead serious about life that you no longer take the road of the possible and say, why not? Do you belittle and look down with contempt on people who are "childish"? Are you so bloated in your sense of self-importance that you have become so immersed in doing, and have forgotten just being? Don't forget the "eleventh commandment": Do not take yourself too seriously. You know why? You are not indispensable in this life. Ultimately, God is in control. Not you.

* * *

There are some people who never cease to amaze us even in their advanced years. One such person I've met was the late Ambassador Nicanor Jimenez whom I had the privilege of meeting when I was a missionary in South Korea. Nick had a way of making people feel special. He would literally go out of his way just to surprise his friends and loved ones. He loved to make people happy and he loved to surprise people.

I can never forget one early December morning in 1984. Nick was on the phone telling me to look out of the window, sharing with me my excitement of seeing the first snow. His care was real. His joy was contagious. Amazing people are like that: real and contagious.

* * *

Another "amazing" person I've met was Ernesto Michael from Cebu. He was a real character who, for a while, I thought to be a superman because he had faced death eyeball to eyeball so many times, and survived. Plane crash, shipwreck, car accidents—he experienced it all. A lover of food, drinks and cigarettes, he had it all, too: diabetes, emphysema, heart attacks, stroke and cirrhosis of the liver. He outlived four of his doctors who warned him that he would die early if he did not reform his ways. But behind this practical joker who talked tough and rough was a humble man with a big, generous and compassionate heart especially for the poor. I asked him once what he would say to the Lord when he'd finally meet him. In tears, he said, "All I'll tell God is 'Lord, you know me, you know my heart. Have mercy on me, a sinner.'"

That is what he probably said to the Lord when he finally met him at 3 a.m. last Wednesday, Jan. 29. He was honest and real. He was humble and trusting. Yeah, amazing people are like that.

* * *

A moment with the Lord:

Lord, help me not to lose my sense of wonder, amazement and surprises as I go on in life. Amen.

Raising the migration discourse

COMMENTARY

Jeremaiah M. Opiniano
Institute on Church and Social Issues

GETTING to Barangay Sta. Rosa in Alaminos, Laguna, is an exhausting trek. But once you get there, you will be enthralled by the sprawling line of concrete villas owned by Italy-based overseas Filipino workers (OFWs). A mini-construction boom is going on in Sta. Rosa, making employment vibrant, and increasing the demand for lumber, hollow blocks and cement. This story reveals the gains of migration.

In contrast, a jailed OFW in Saudi Arabia recently called up a local radio station and pleaded for help so that he would immediately be repatriated. Apart from worrying about his return, the man's dreams of a better future for his family through overseas work may never be realized. His plight reveals the costs of migration.

For nearly three decades, international migration has been part of many Filipinos' hope for survival and success. Despite the ups and downs of the country's socio-economic conditions, the increasing exodus of Filipinos has remained constant. Despite fluctuations in annual remittance figures, these repatriated earnings are still the "saviors" of the Philippine economy.

Yet, migration has its costs and gains, to quote migration research expert Stella Go of De La Salle University. Much publicized are the tragic plots of many Filipinos' stories abroad. There have also been tales of success, such as that of Pozorrubio, Pangasinan, which is now a booming agro-commercial local economy because of the OFWs' contributions.

The costs-versus-gains debate in migration has been endless. But in this continued exchange of views on migration's development potentials, what has been missing is an effort to look at labor migration in the context of our aspirations for development. Says an OFW advocate: "Do we have a development paradigm in this regard? Is labor export anathema to development?"

Somehow we remain trapped in the usual discussion that migration helps ease domestic unemployment, improves our balance of payments and stabilizes our exchange rates. New discussions, though, are emerging. Overseas work should be encouraged, wrote the 2001 Philippine Human Development Report (PHDR), since going abroad "increases investments in education and skills." Even top businessman Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala has recognized that sending domestic workers, caregivers and professionals is beneficial to the country.

The country, however, continues to suffer from jobless growth despite intensified labor migration. In addition, rough calculations by economists such as Gonzalo Jurado show that despite the rising deployment of new hires for work abroad, domestic unemployment has not been contained. From 1988 to 2001, unemployment rates have ranged from 8 to 11 percent. Since the year 2000, it has stood at 11 percent. Migrant outflow, meanwhile, has never gone down since 1990. Government estimates that nearly a million OFWs were deployed last year.

Philippine labor migration is now entering a new chapter. Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas, in a forum last September, said migration is now a "permanent fixture" in Filipinos' socio-economic lives. In previous administrations, migration was seen as a "temporary measure." Going by the 2001-2004 Medium-Term Philippine Development Plan, the government now explicitly recognizes overseas employment as a "legitimate option for the country's work force. As such, government shall fully respect labor mobility, including the preference for overseas employment." Thus, labor migration will remain part of the government's strategy for job generation, that being a priority of President Macapagal-Arroyo in her last 15 months in power.

The "permanency" of international migration as government's development strategy should be carefully studied. Is migration really bad for Filipinos? Does this reveal a government that has no clear vision other than cultivating another generation of remittance sources, such as children of OFWs? With many Filipino families becoming vulnerable to social dislocation because of overseas employment, what future lies ahead for the basic unit of Philippine society?

Migration may also carry significant implications for other aspects of our socio-economic development. Our reliance on external sources has not spurred agriculture and manufacturing. As teachers and medical professionals leave, what will be left to the country's education and health sectors? Migration has long been an excuse for government not to accelerate social reform.

In a recent paper, Go observed that migration leads to increasing inequality, and its benefits do not reach the poorer segments of society. Based on government data on migrant outflow, poverty incidence and family income and expenditures, Go said, there are more migrants from areas with low poverty incidence than those with high poverty incidence. Urban families, meanwhile, tend also to benefit more from migration's gains than rural families. If migration contributes to the long-standing problem of inequality, then this is "the most disquieting aspect of Philippine migration," Go said.

What has been almost absent in the nearly 30 years of adopting migration as a policy is a genuine development framework that situates the role of migrant labor in our socio-economic and political lives. We have long been trapped in the tragic framework of migration, and even OFW advocates do not offer alternative development paradigms.

We are challenged to mainstream migration discourses—and raise the level of these discussions—so that we can strategize how the migration of Filipinos can improve socio-economic conditions. We also dream of the day that migration can be tapped to speed up poverty reduction, job generation, agricultural modernization, wider access to social security, and even good governance. Unless these issues are studied and discussed, nothing may be left for the country in the long run.

Finding hope

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

HOPE is a fleeting commodity, highly perishable, difficult to recover once it is lost.

The past weekend has been a continuing search for hope—for the future, for the country, for our dreams for a Philippines worth leaving to our children and grandchildren.

Two years ago, at the second Philippine Forum of so-called "successor generation," our "spirit guide" Mario Taguiwalo started his opening address by saying: "Ladies and Gentlemen, we are in deep shit." This time, with about 40 "alumni" holding their own unofficial get-together, everyone was afraid Taguiwalo would preface his presentation with "Ladies and Gentlemen, we are in deeper shit than ever before."

And indeed, as reported to me (I came late), the talks at the first morning's plenary swung from the utter depths of gloom and doom to fairly optimistic projections of growth, given the rosy "numbers" of macro indicators.

Yet even those inclined to look at the "bright side" of the darkest situations acknowledged that the national mood seems stuck between despair and disillusionment. If our economic indicators paint a rosy portrait, these don't seem to have been translated into more concrete indicators like jobs, food and education.

Or maybe, as one participant pointed out, the Philippines is not really "a country for national averages" given the wide disparities in income and status. A "modest," though still remarkable, 4-percent economic growth rate may be palpable to the businessman in Makati, for instance, but meaningless to the farmer in Mindanao who remains poor as ever.

How do you create hope when all the signs point toward despair? What can an individual do to climb out of the landscape of corruption and incompetence? "Do we just join the lines at the Canadian and Australian embassies?" the conference guide asked. "What are the needs of the nation and what is our response?"

* * *

"KEEP hoping" seemed to be the answer at the end of the break-out sessions and the presentations of "thought pieces" by NGO personalities invited to share "thought pieces" with the gathering.

Dan Songco of Code-NGO noted that the folks most vocal about their disappointment with the situation are those "who have the luxury of complaining, while the majority simply have to accept their lot because they're stuck here."

Confessing to feeling close to frustration many times before, Songco recalled what another NGO leader told him: "If the poor are not giving up, what right do we have to give up?"

If the group of young professionals gathered at the PF alumni gathering considered themselves as emerging leaders, Songco reminded them, "leadership is telling people that we're getting close when they think we're still so far away."

Bart Guingona, who spoke on the projects of pagbabago@pilipinas, referred to his theater background in which artists "proceed from dreams and pursue the truth." "We've got to pursue good now," Bart stressed, asserting that "despair is the first step toward evil because it makes us think we can do nothing against it."

* * *

POSSIBLE steps toward action were pointed out in a brief presentation by Undersecretary Mike Luz of the Department of Education on the DepEd's program for the remainder of the Macapagal administration.

The problems of the education sector are serious but not insurmountable. At least 25 percent of schoolchildren drop out of school before reaching Grade 3, while fully 35 percent of public school students can be expected to drop out before Grade 6. Which is why one of the strategic goals of the department, said Luz, "is not 100 percent participation on Day 1 of Grade 1, but 100 percent participation on the last day of Grade 6."

Another major problem is the "mastery of grade level skills," with children constantly falling behind the expected competencies for their grade-level, and thus falling farther and farther behind as they ascend the academic ladder.

"We are finding non-readers in Grade 4," explains Luz, attributing it to the system of continuous promotion in which children move on to a higher grade even if they have yet to demonstrate mastery of the set of skills expected of the lower grade. Thus, a major objective of the DepEd leadership is "to fix the reading and retention problems of children between Grades 1 and 4."

The delivery of quality education is but one of the major thrusts of Secretary DJ de Jesus' term. But as Taguiwalo pointed out, if the DepEd only succeeds in imparting the right grade-level skills to children by Grade 3, "then they would have solved a large part of the problem."

* * *

FILM and TV director Joey Reyes, who was one of the "gloom and doom" presenters at the first plenary, remarked at the end of Luz's presentation: "I'm no longer depressed. I'm angry."

What Luz's figures demonstrated quite clearly, after all, was that it's not only lack of resources that bedevils the DepEd, there's also the question of mismanagement and lack of training for teachers, principals and superintendents.

I was heartened upon hearing Joey's words. Anger, it seems to me, is a healthier reaction to stress than depression. Anger can move one to action, anger can lead to change.

But anger unleavened by hope can only lead to destruction. Anger can force one to move to change the situation, but hope gives one the reason to hold on even when the anger has passed and perhaps depression threatens on the horizon.

Hope is fleeting, hope is perishable. But with work, it can be nurtured and cultivated. But first, one needs to believe.

America's reckless war

PUBLIC LIVES

Randy David

IMMEDIATELY after Sept. 11, the focus of the hunt was Osama bin Laden and the so-called al-Qaida. Bin Laden and his henchmen were supposed to be hiding in Afghanistan, under the protection of the Taliban. The United States demanded that the Taliban surrender Bin Laden. When they refused, Afghanistan was bombed. The archaic regime of the Taliban was driven out, and in its place the United States installed a new government manned by Afghan expatriates. Afghanistan still lies in rubble, and Bin Laden is nowhere.

Almost overnight the attention shifted to Saddam Hussein and his supposed weapons of mass destruction. Without showing evidence, America linked Saddam to the Sept. 11 terrorists. It raised the specter of Iraqi weapons finding their way into the hands of terrorists. A wave of paranoia swept America. Iraq must be invaded because its leader poses the greatest threat to the security of the American people. America must not wait before it is attacked again; it must take preemptive action to defend itself.

As in Afghanistan, America is passing off the invasion of Iraq as a war to liberate the Iraqi people from their own government's tyranny. The image of a democratic and modern Iraqi nation freed from the clutches of a demonic president is being promoted to justify an unprovoked war. The United States has told Saddam to leave Iraq and go on exile, or face war. Many Iraqis may hate their president, but a puppet regime installed by the United States is for them not an option. For more than a decade now, the United States has been trying to persuade Iraqis to get rid of their president. Saddam's power could not have lasted so long if it was based purely on coercion and intimidation.

Mindful of the sovereignty of member nations, the UN Security Council refused to provide a warrant to legitimize a US-led invasion without giving Iraq a chance to declare and destroy the weapons of mass destruction it is accused of possessing. Late last year, the United Nations deployed an international team of weapons inspectors to ensure and ascertain Iraq's compliance with the UN resolutions.

The group looking for nuclear weapons is satisfied that Iraq has not reactivated its nuclear weapons program. But the other group searching for biological and chemical weapons has reported inconclusive findings, saying that Iraq has not been very cooperative with the UN inspectors. The United States insists that Iraq has failed to account for the biological and nuclear weapons previously spotted by international inspectors soon after the Gulf War. On this basis, it accuses Iraq of ignoring the UN resolutions. Iraq denies having such weapons in the first place.

The majority of the 15-member UN Security Council wants the work of the inspection teams extended. In his recent State of the Union address, however, President George W. Bush emphatically said that he would not allow other nations to direct the course of his nation. He has criticized the UN as a forum for empty debates. This sets the stage for American unilateral action against Iraq. The UN may not sanction the invasion but it is doubtful if it will do anything to protect Iraq from the aggression of a lone superpower gone mad.

What is astonishing about all this is not so much the way the United States, by its actions, risks destroying the basis of international order, or ignores popular opinion in the world community. What is shocking is the recklessness by which America is conducting itself. Gone is the grace of self-examination by which it initially responded to 9/11. All the goodwill it gained after that event has been eroded by the bullying rhetoric of its president. But more than this, what America is showing the world is a profound indifference to the possible catastrophic consequences of a failure to conclude the war quickly after it is begun.

That Iraq's ill-equipped forces are no match to America's war machine is a widely acknowledged fact. Thoughtful observers have warned that the war could ignite a larger conflagration in the Middle East and elsewhere, which could lead to the overthrow of pro-US rulers in the Muslim world. When the BBC and CNN start beaming satellite images of civilians vanishing in the smoke of America's smart bombs, popular outrage worldwide could be vented against anything symbolic of American power. There is no way to contain a war like this.

When the United States launched Desert Storm in 1991, Iraq responded by burning more than half of Kuwait's oil wells. The fire and smoke from the burning oil wells raged on for weeks. This time, knowing that they are the prime objects of the war, Saddam may well order the total destruction of its own 1,500 oil wells. The environmental and health consequences of this war are too horrific to contemplate.

If the object is to overthrow and replace Saddam Hussein's regime, America will have no choice but to send its troops into Baghdad, unlike in 1991. If Iraq really owns a stockpile of biological and chemical weapons, nothing will prevent Saddam from using these against America's soldiers or even against Israel. Sterility, widely feared by the hundreds of thousands of US ground troops now being massed near Iraq, could be the least of their problems once germ warfare is launched. Will America restrain itself and not respond with its own weapons of mass destruction? And will the wind cooperate and not blow the poison and the anthrax spores toward the neighboring states?

Not since Vietnam has a superpower embarked on such a reckless adventure. The Vietnam War was supposed to be a brief war, but it took all of 10 years to end it. The world was against it, and America lost it.

* * *

Comments to rdavid@pacific.net.ph

Eerie silence of tax experts on VAT

COMMENTARY

Raul J. Palabrica

MOVIE personalities are carrying the brunt of the opposition to the 10-percent value-added tax on professionals. After a noisy demonstration at the Senate, they went around radio and TV stations claiming they were being unfairly singled out by the government in its drive to increase tax collections.

In their position paper, the entertainers said they do not mind paying the VAT if that would help ease the country's financial problems. But, and this is a big but, they will pay only after the Bureau of Internal Revenue has run after the big private companies and wealthy businessmen who have been cheating on their taxes.

There is something unusual about the way the protest against the professionals' VAT is going. The lawyers and accountants who also stand to "suffer" from the intensified tax collection drive are nowhere near the center of the action. Except for a press statement or two, they have generally kept to the background, almost unseen. The traditionally outspoken lawyers and accountants, who have a reputation for militancy when their interests are being threatened by other parties, seem to have lost their tongues.

Three reasons may explain this unexpected silence. First, they believe the tax is justified. They must have realized that after enjoying a five-year respite from the VAT, it was time they shared with the government more of the fruits of their lucrative practice. Although this theory may appear to go against the grain of the Filipino character, miracles do happen and lawyers and accountants are not immune to divine inspiration.

Partly to blame

It is also possible that these professionals have acknowledged (in private, of course) that they are somehow responsible for the BIR's dismal collection record. If the BIR is unable to get the full measure of the taxes due from big private companies and high-flying businessmen, part of the blame may be traced to the lawyers and accountants who have devised clever means to beat the BIR in the tax game.

The professionals who tinker with the books of private businesses are correct is saying there is nothing wrong with "tax avoidance," or advising clients on how to avoid the payment of taxes. It's perfectly legal to come up with schemes or arrangements that avoid the imposition or result in the reduction of taxes on certain business activities or earnings. That's a game many tax lawyers and accountants love to engage in. Finding the loopholes or gray areas in the tax laws is not only ego-boosting, it can mean substantial financial rewards in terms of professional fees.

The classification of the Honda CR-V 2002 as an Asian Utility Vehicle is a classic example of tax avoidance. Under existing regulations, a locally manufactured AUV, or vehicle that can carry 10 passengers, is exempt from the excise tax. The exemption is intended to make the vehicle more affordable to the middle and lower economic classes who can use it for personal and commercial purposes.

Loophole

The CR-V was presented to the BIR as capable of seating 10 passengers through the simple expedient of putting a seat at the rear that can be folded to make room for more baggage space. But the problem is the configuration of this seat is so small that only a dwarf-sized contortionist can comfortably sit on it. Without the additional passengers that this seat is supposed to accommodate, the car would not have been exempted from the excise tax.

Thanks to the exemption, the CR-V came out cheaper in price and, not surprisingly, attracted a lot of buyers. But the government became poorer by some P1.5 billion in uncollected excise taxes.

Although belatedly, the BIR has wizened up to the ploy of using passenger capacity as the basis for the classification of motor vehicles for purposes of the excise tax. Last week, it issued a ruling that closed this tax loophole.

Where taxes cannot be avoided, some tax experts have no qualms about advising their clients to evade the payment of taxes. Unlike tax avoidance, tax evasion is illegal. It is not uncommon for unscrupulous businessmen to falsify their business records, refuse to issue receipts or claim deductions for non-existent expenses to lower, if not escape, their tax liabilities.

And there is no shortage of lawyers and accountants who are willing to lend their expertise on how to shield those illegal activities from detection.

As in all cases of graft and corruption, tax evasion will not flourish without the willing cooperation of BIR personnel who, for the right price, will stretch the interpretation of the tax laws to suit certain interests or look the other way when they spot tax violations.

Futile protest

Mercifully, the lawyers and accountants have not adopted the entertainers' line that the BIR train its guns on the tax cheats in the business world before it cracks down on them for unpaid taxes. If they did, they would be no different from a crime suspect who killed his parents and then asked for lenient treatment from the court because he was an orphan!

Finally, the lawyers and accountants may have taken a low profile in the protest actions because they have realized that further opposition to the VAT is futile. With Congress not keen on extending their tax exemption, it's just a matter of time before the BIR unleashes its resources on them to collect the revenues the country badly needs to reduce the budget deficit.

With more than 10 years' experience in VAT monitoring and collection behind it, the BIR would know what schemes or devices can be resorted to by some professionals to avoid the accurate reporting of their income or find the paper trail that leads to an honest appraisal of their taxable value.

Considering the temperament of our tax lawyers and accountants, it is doubtful if they will completely give up the fight to protect their pockets from further poaching by the tax collectors through the VAT system. Expect them to go through the VAT law with a fine-toothed comb to look for that provision, no matter how innocuous, that will justify their avoiding additional tax payments.

The cat-and-mouse game on the VAT between the BIR and professionals has just begun.

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TALK of the TOWN

Editor Juan V. Sarmiento Jr.

Was NPA 'correct' in killing Kintanar?

IT was "absolutely correct," says the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) "to punish" Romulo Kintanar, former chief of the New People's Army, the CPP's armed wing.

The CPP claims that a "people's court" had found Kintanar guilty "beyond reasonable doubt" of involvement in crimes such as bank robberies, kidnapping for ransom, dollar counterfeiting and absconding with party funds as well as in counterrevolutionary activities like supporting military campaigns against the NPA.

Kintanar can not rebut the charges now. But a former CPP official is taking the cudgels for the slain former NPA chief.

Rodolfo Salas, CPP chair from 1977 to 1986 and NPA chief from 1976 to 1986, says that the charges were without basis.

Salas reveals that the CPP leadership after him had ordered the NPA General Command, which at the time was headed by Kintanar, to engage in activities like bank heists, kidnapping for ransom and dollar counterfeiting.

The NPA turned over most of the funds raised from these activities to the executive committee of the CPP's central committee, but the NPA retained a small portion to finance its operations, according to Salas.

The information shared by Salas and CPP's charges against Kintanar are shedding more light on the activities of the underground movement. When conflicting information from different sources come out something like the truth could emerge.

'Military agents are combatants'

By Bonifacio Ilagan
Chair, First Quarter Storm Movement

WE in the First Quarter Storm (FQS) Movement acknowledge the role that the late Romulo Kintanar had once played in the mass movement and the armed struggle for national liberation.

He was among the countless youths of our generation that heeded the call to set aside personal dreams in order to pursue the collective dream of national freedom and social emancipation of the masses. With the spunk that Kintanar exemplified, he rose to the highest echelons of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) and the New People's Army (NPA).

But in subsequent events, there was a parting of ways between Kintanar and the CPP-NPA. Joined by some other leaders, Kintanar bolted the revolutionary underground, surfaced and participated in the formation of several groups that attacked everything that the CPP-NPA stood for. The CPP expelled Kintanar and his like-minded colleagues.

Was Kintanar executed by the NPA because he no longer believed in the theory of protracted people's war? Was he punished because he promoted ideas that opposed the Maoist line? Because he was among those who campaigned for the rejection of the CPP's rectification movement? Because he swore allegiance to the Lakas-NUCD? Because he only had bad things to say regarding Jose Ma. Sison?

A number of us in the FQS Movement had our "tour of duty" in the underground (as well as in the torture chambers of the AFP and the PNP). We know, by theory and practice, that the CPP-NPA does not execute anyone who espouses ideas contrary to the teachings of the Party, even if the ideas were anathema to the revolution. At worst, they are expelled and left to themselves to do as they pleased with their ideas. In fact, among those who did get out of the CPP-NPA were some who joined the government, formed anti-Left organizations and other unlikely entities, and made it an obsession to defame the revolutionary movement and its leaders. Still, they did not deserve the death penalty.

Another story

But we know as well, that when one bolts the CPP-NPA and becomes a government military intelligence agent, that is another story. Getting out of the CPP-NPA and attacking it publicly at every turn does not equate with death. But becoming a government military agent, and therefore a combatant in a shooting war--that changes the equation altogether.

Government military agents are combatants who directly participate or contribute in the surveillance, arrest, torture, rape and salvaging of militant activists, political dissenters, underground revolutionaries and everybody else whom the government perceives as a threat to its existence. Has Kintanar become a government military agent? We don't know.

The CPP-NPA has claimed that Kintanar was indeed a government military agent. It has also made public a number of charges against him. Among these were criminal acts of kidnapping, bank robberies and holdups. A colleague of Kintanar, Nathan Quimpo, confirmed these criminal acts in an article recently published in the INQUIRER, although he aimed to defend Kintanar and attack Jose Ma. Sison and the CPP-NPA. We note that Kintanar's aggrieved widow has vehemently denied the charges, and we let it stand at that.

But what she, the so-called FQS Foundation, Akbayan and Tbak have not denied is the revelation by the police and military officers that Kintanar was their asset, agent, adviser or consultant. No less than President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo confirmed that "at the time of his assassination, Kintanar was working as a government military intelligence agent."

We hate to add to the grief of Kintanar's bereaved. We will understand if they insist that no explanation is tenable in the death of their kin, but perhaps they and the public may want to look into an angle that has been, for one reason or another, glossed over.

'An illegitimate court acted as Rolly's accuser, judge and executioner'

By Loretta Ann P. Rosales,
Akbayan party-list representative, and chair, First Quarter Storm Foundation

THE NEW People's Army is definitely not justified in killing Romulo "Rolly" Kintanar, under any standards, even the standards that it proclaims it adheres to. His right to life was not respected, he was not afforded due process, and the list of his alleged crimes is a one-sided recitation by the CPP-NDF (National Democratic Front)-NPA acting as accuser-judge-executioner. Nobody has the right to say that anybody deserves to die. The killing of Rolly is certainly not a legitimate punishment imposed by the CPP-NDF-NPA on an allegedly errant former member. It looks more like a cold-blooded Mafia-style summary execution ordered by a leadership that has lost its claim to revolutionary legitimacy.

In executing Rolly, the CPP-NDF-NPA has blatantly violated the principles and the instruments of human rights and international humanitarian law that it claims to uphold under the Comprehensive Agreement on Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law (Cahrihl) that it entered into with the government. The international principles of human rights and international humanitarian law are the same standards that govern the conduct of civilized societies.

Under the Cahrihl, the CPP-NDF-NPA and the government are supposed to guarantee and protect the individual's right to life in times of peace as well as the rights of non-combatants in times of war and internal armed conflicts. While the CPP-NDF-NPA considers Rolly a "traitor to the revolutionary movement," he was a non-combatant protected by the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and Protocols I and II. Despite this, Rolly's right to life, the fountainhead of all human rights because all other rights flow from it, was not respected.

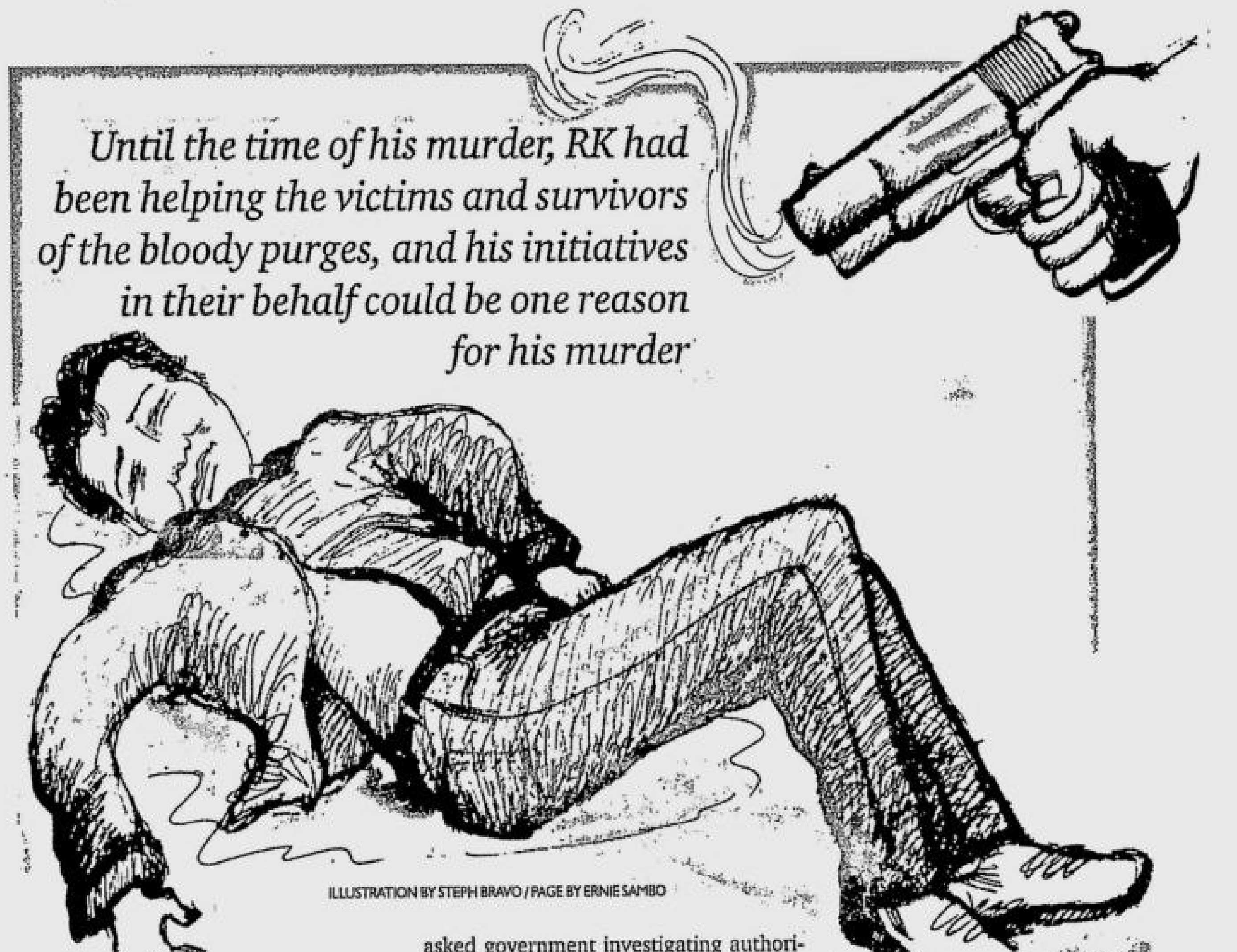
Neither was he granted due process. He was tried, judged and sentenced by an illegitimate "people's court" of an organization that acted as his accuser, judge and executioner in complete disregard of universally accepted standards.

Suspected enemy spies

There is an interesting footnote here. The CPP-NDF-NPA appears to have violated the terms and spirit of its own document, apparently drawn up sometime in 1990 or 1991, titled *"Mga Alituntunin sa Paglilitis ng mga Pinaghihinalaang Espiya ng Kaaway"* (Rules in the Trial of Suspected Enemy Spies). This was apparently formulated to prevent a recurrence of the hysteria, which characterized the bloody and disastrous anti-infiltration campaign in Mindanao known as *Kampanyang Ahos*. The document provided that suspects be accorded due process by informing them of the charge(s) and by allowing them to be represented by a counsel. It also provided that suspects hear the evidence against them, and that they present their own evidence. They can even appeal an unfavorable judgment.

It is not clear if the leadership of the CPP-NDF-NPA ever approved this document, but it was clearly an attempt by some well-meaning elements within the organization to institutionalize respect for human rights and observance of the rule of law within the revolutionary movement. While these rules and regulations are supposed to apply specifically to suspected spies, the principles they uphold reflect universally accepted principles of due process and can be applied in the handling of other cases.

Whatever happened to this document, the principles it contained were obviously not observed in the case of Rolly. These principles do not allow the summary execution of any person, even if he is claimed by an organization like the CPP-NDF-NPA to be a traitor and to be guilty of serious crimes.



Until the time of his murder, RK had been helping the victims and survivors of the bloody purges, and his initiatives in their behalf could be one reason for his murder

ILLUSTRATION BY STEPH BRAVO / PAGE BY ERNIE SAMBO

Probe

In the face of this dastardly act, the most important thing to be done at the moment is for government authorities to conduct a speedy and impartial probe of Rolly's murder, observing the rule of law and respecting human rights. On this basis, the authorities must arrest with dispatch and bring to the courts of justice the masterminds and perpetrators of this heinous crime.

Concerned organizations like the First Quarter Storm (FQS) Foundation have asked government investigating authorities, especially the military and the police, to be very thorough, to respect due process and to refrain from making sloppy conclusions without sufficient and substantive evidence, lest the investigative process result in a witch hunt and gross abuse of human rights.

We have likewise appealed to the other armed Left groups to approach the situation with largeness of mind and to exercise restraint and prudence in collective behavior so as to avoid fratricidal violence while contributing in bringing about a just solution to Rolly's murder.

Finally, we have also appealed to all leaders of the Left, many of whom are FQS veterans, to remember that ideological and political differences, including a fair and honest accounting of the past, can only be truly resolved not by the use of violent force but by open, honest, rigorous and edifying discussion, dialogue and debate. A distinguishing hallmark of the FQS tradition, after all, is adherence to open and free battle of ideas to resolve what is best for the country, a battle that can only be won by superior ideas and exemplary practice.

'RK was a true hero of the masses'

By Rodolfo S. Salas
CPP chair, 1977-1986 and NPA commander-in-chief, 1976-1986

OUR testimonies serve neither to bring Rolly Kintanar back to life nor to engage in tit-for-tat with CPP-NPA press statements, but to help bring out the truth that can serve the cause of justice, the very ideal which RK had lived and died for. After the First Quarter Storm, RK joined the revolutionary forces in Isabela when he was only 19 years old. He was among the trade unionists and student leaders who opted for the highest form of struggle. His chosen area was then experiencing the most challenging conditions in the face of the most intensive and sustained military campaign, "Task Force Lawin." RK was wounded when he fell into enemy hands but he did not lose his commitment to the movement even while caged in Fort Bonifacio. Immediately after his release, he began a pioneering countryside work in Mindanao. It resulted in substantial headway for later comprehensive work for the national democratic movement on the island's marginalized peasants, Moros, and *lumads*. His personal and risk-taking efforts to understand the people's suffering and his resourcefulness made him valuable to the movement. He personally undertook the recruitment and training of most NPA commanders in Mindanao. His successes in advancing the revolution contributed to the struggle against the Marcos dictatorship.

RK joined me in 1983 in his capacity as head of the military secretariat. The following year, he joined me in the NPA General Command. At that time, he personally led the rescue of Satur Ocampo during the National Press Club election. Edsa I in 1986 overtook the execution of the final stage of the rescue from Fort Bonifacio of his main accuser today, Jose Ma. Sison. After his third release from prison in 1992, he decided to leave the Party but he continued working for the people through nonviolent means. There are two reasons behind RK's decision. First, he could not stomach the dictatorial ways of new CPP leaders. Second, the new conditions of liberal democracy, no matter how imperfect, offered more effective means of helping alleviate poverty, unemployment and lack of housing through President Macapagal-Arroyo's programs, which are aimed at addressing the problems of insurgency. RK was a true hero of the masses.

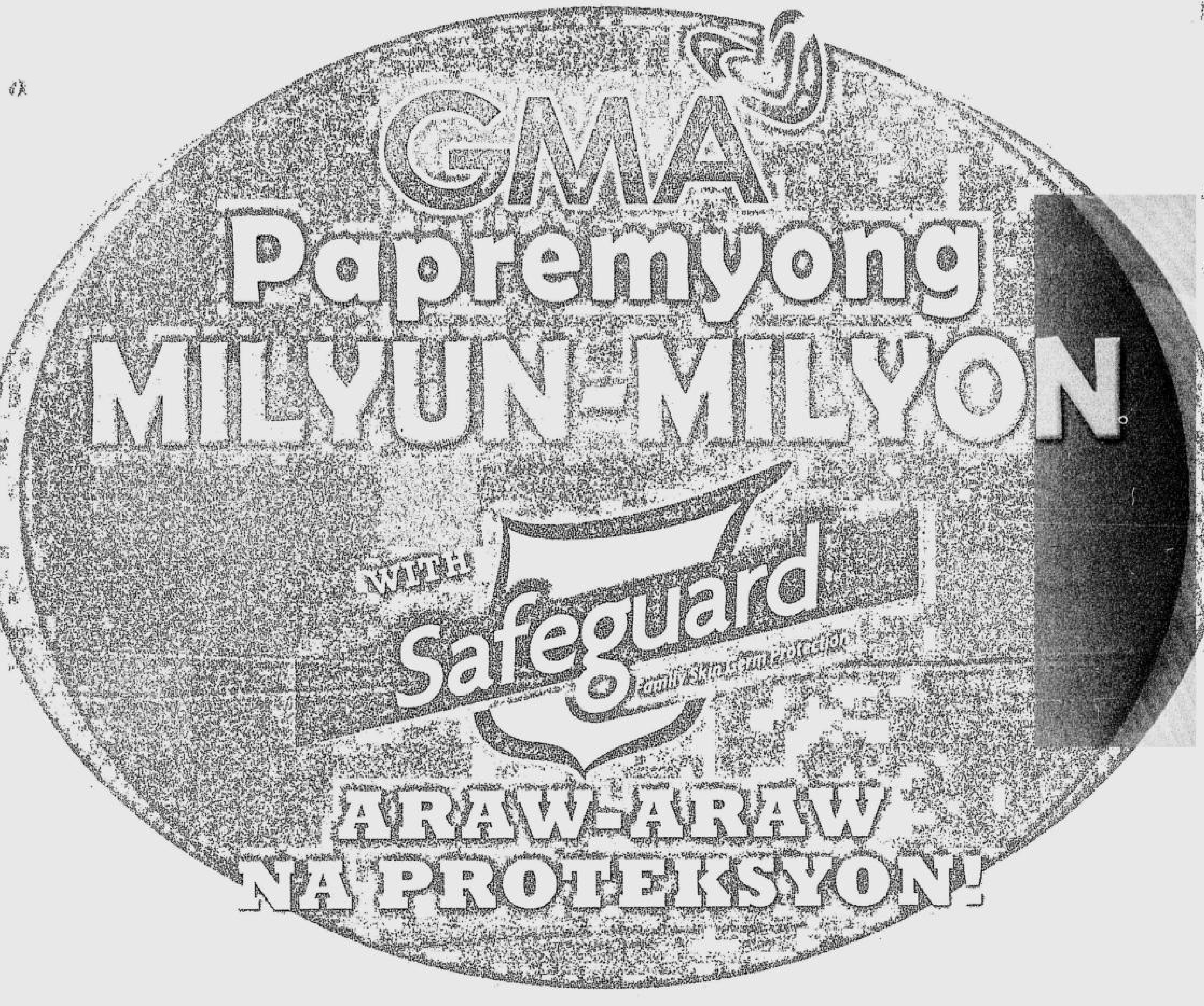
I categorically say that the charges of criminal complicity and liability and of counterrevolutionary activity hurled at RK are without basis. Before and during my leadership, the Party Central Committee prohibited all criminal activities such as drug trafficking, white slavery, bank heists, dollar counterfeiting and kidnapping for ransom.

After 1986, the new leadership represented by the Executive Committee of the Central Committee (EC/CC or KT/KS in Filipino) allowed and ordered the NPA General Command to undertake such criminal acts to raise funds for the CPP-NPA-NDF. Three things are clear in this regard: RK's involvement in these activities was duly approved by the leadership; most of the funds were turned over to the EC/CC; and only a portion of the funds was retained for the operational and arms procurement expenses of the NPA.

As a government consultant, RK was effective in breaking up well-entrenched syndicates at the Bureau of Immigration that prey on illegal Chinese and Indian immigrants. RK had also been instrumental in breaking the procurement mafia at the National Electrification Administration and in rehabilitating bankrupt electric cooperatives. In public service as well as in his revolutionary practice, RK opposed injustice and human rights violations. He and I personally stopped *"Kampanyang Ahos,"* the summary execution of more than 1,000 CPP-NPA cadres and civilians, which was initiated by the Mindanao Caretaker Committee headed by Ric Reyes in 1985 ***(Editor's note: When contacted about this, Reyes said he would issue a reply.)***. Together, we sought an investigation of *Ahos* but the new Executive Committee of the Party declared in 1987 that *Ahos* was justified although it had some "excesses."

Like in *Ahos*, he opposed "Operation Missing Link" in Southern Luzon perpetrated by Jose Luneta and Ka Roger and "Operation Olympia" initiated by the EC/CC. In a few months time, the combined casualty figure of these operations reached 800. Until the time of his murder, RK had been helping the victims and survivors of these bloody purges and his initiatives in their behalf could be one reason for his murder. The government that arrested RK three times had kept him alive. But on Jan. 23, his life was violently ended in the most traitorous manner by former comrades. False charges were filed against him. He did not enjoy due process and he was unable to face his accussers. There is no point in abetting the senseless loss of precious lives.

I therefore call upon the CPP-NPA-NDF leadership to stop the killings. Terrorism has never been an effective means of holding onto power or of stifling legitimate dissent. It is high time that different views and ideas be respected and protected in the service of the people.



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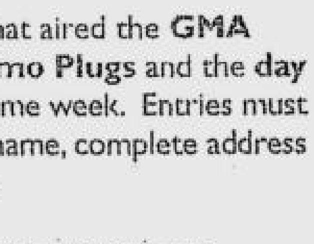

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MECHANICS:
Participants must tune in to GMA to catch the **GMA PAPREMYONG MILYUN-MILYON Promo Plugs** that will be aired within the various programs of GMA, all week long.

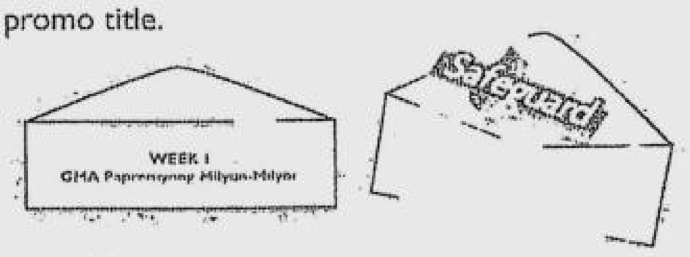
- Participants must write down **3 programs** that aired the **GMA PAPREMYONG MILYUN-MILYON Promo Plugs** and the **day of airing**. Airing of plugs must all be in the same week. Entries must also have the week number, the participant's name, complete address and telephone number (if any) and signature.

Sample Entry Form:

WEEK I
ALL MY LOVE - MONDAY
EXTRA EXTRA - TUESDAY
BEH BOTE NGA - WEDNESDAY
MINA FLORES
4 GENERAL LUNA ST., SAN MATEO RIZAL
9412121
(SIGNATURE)

- All entries must include a PROOF OF PURCHASE - **one (1) 90g pack / one (1) 135g pack Safeguard Soap, any variant, either in its old or new packaging.**
- All entries must be placed in a white envelope with the week number and promo title.

Sample Envelope:



- All entries must be sent to Promo Dimensions, Inc., 122 Shaw Boulevard, Pasig City 1600 Metro Manila or dropped off at drop boxes available nationwide.
- All entries for the week shall be raffled off. Only correctly answered entries with Proof of Purchase shall be valid to win.

- Draws will be conducted in Promo Dimensions Inc. 515 Katarungan St. 1600 Pasig City, at 3:00PM
- Participants can only win once per Weekly & Grand Draw. If a name is drawn more than once, winner receives bigger prize.

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- Every week, there shall be five **(5) winners of Nokia 5210, five (5) winners of 50,000 for week 1 to week 4 and five (5) winners of 70,000 for week 5 to week 8.**
- All weekly winners shall be announced on air and notified via registered mail.

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- All entries shall be valid for a grand raffle draw to be held on SOP.
- Grand raffle draw shall be held on-air on SOP and shall have **ten (10) winners of trip to Boracay for four*, five (5) winners of ₱200,000.00 and one (1) winner of P1,000,000.00.**
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- Erasures or any form of tampering shall invalidate the entry.
- Safeguard Proof of Purchase must be at least 70% complete.
- Winners shall have sixty (60) days from the date of the notification to claim their prizes. All cash prizes should be claimed in Promo Dimensions, Inc. 112 Shaw Boulevard, Pasig City Metro Manila. All winners of cellphones can claim their prizes at the nearest PDI redemption centers specified on registered mail
- Winners may claim their prizes by presenting a valid identification papers (office/school ID, SSS or GSIS number, drivers license, passport, etc).
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- All prizes are non convertible to cash but trip prizes are transferable.

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Asian Spirit

IMPORTANT DATES:

WEEK NO	DATES COVERED	CUT-OFF	RAFFLE DATE
1	Feb 2 – Feb 8	Feb 14	Feb 20
2	Feb 9 – Feb 15	Feb 21	Feb 27
3	Feb 16 – Feb 22	Feb 28	Mar 6
4	Feb. 23 – Mar 1	Mar 7	Mar 13
5	Mar 2 – Mar 8	Mar 14	Mar 20
6	Mar 9 – Mar 15	Mar 21	Mar 27
7	Mar 16 – Mar 22	Mar 28	Apr 3
8	Mar 23 – Mar 29	Apr 4	Apr 10
Grand Draw	Feb 2 – Mar 29	Apr 4	Apr 13

Per DTI-NCR Permit # 0093, Series of 2003

The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

US considers getting UN okay for war

By Evelyn Leopold

UNITED NATIONS—With a US invasion of Iraq all but inevitable, many UN envoys believe the Bush administration will push for a Security Council resolution authorizing force and setting a deadline for Iraqi compliance.

The United States has contended it does not need this form of international legitimacy to launch an attack.

But President George W. Bush on Friday left the door open for a new vote during a news conference with British Prime Minister Tony Blair, whose country has drafted such a measure.

"This needs to be resolved quickly," Bush said. "Should the United Nations decide to pass a second resolution, it would be welcomed if it is yet another signal that we're intent upon disarming Saddam Hussein," he said.

The United States has pointed to resolution 1441, adopted on Nov. 8, that gives Iraq one last opportunity to disarm or face "serious consequences."

But the legalisms of resolution 1441 do little to sway a wary American public or turn the strong anti-war sentiment in nearly every European nation, even staunch ally Britain.

"The United States knows that to get world support it needs to try for a resolution," said one key council diplomat, speaking on condition of anonymity. "It is now a matter of timing."

Blair, meeting with President Bush on Friday to map strategy, is a strong advocate of a second resolution.

"I believe that if the weapons inspector feels Saddam is refusing to cooperate, the implication of UN Resolution 1441 is clear that there should be a second resolution and I believe in these circumstances there will be," Blair said recently.

If such a measure were introduced, it would have to be floated within the next few weeks. Speculation is strong that the United States will send in troops to Iraq in mid-March.

David Malone, director of the International Peace Academy, a think tank with strong ties to the United Nations, says his research indicates Washington is left with little choice.

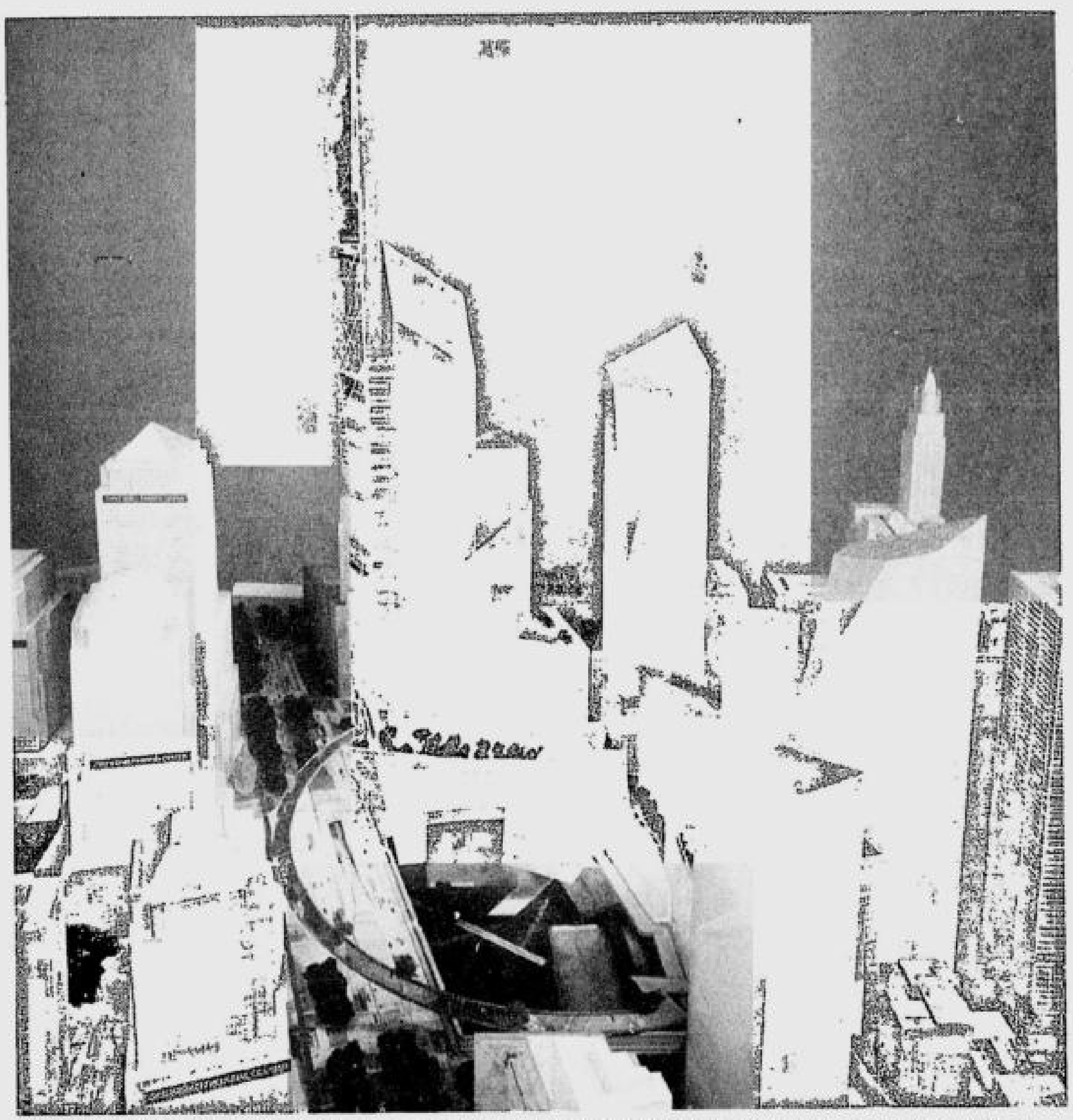
"They will have to go for a resolution, with a cutoff date demanding complete Iraqi compliance," he said.

The United States first will have to convince those council members most opposed to an invasion—Russia, France, Germany, China and Syria—it is in their interest to back such a resolution, Malone said.

"Iraq is too important for any of the permanent members of the Security Council to want to marginalize themselves by sitting back or sulking over this American action," he said.

So far Washington's lobbying has not yielded results. At least 11 of the council's 15 members want to give arms inspections, which only resumed two months ago, more time.

Consequently, Secretary of State Colin Powell, in an effort to persuade skeptics that Iraq must be disarmed by force, on Wednesday will present to the Security Council what Washington considers proof that Iraq is continuing to develop weapons of mass destruction and has links to al-Qaida, accused of the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks on America. *Reuters*



WHERE IT ALL STARTED—With three days left on Jan. 31 for public input on the architectural design competition to replace the destroyed World Trade Center, two leading contenders have emerged. One of them, Studio Daniel Libeskind's design, which features a stiletto-like 1,776-foot spire, would be the tallest structure in the world. REUTERS

Allied spy mission inside Iraq

LONDON—British and US special forces have mounted a six-day covert mission into western Iraq to identify key targets in the event of a war, the Daily Telegraph said Saturday.

The report came as British Prime Minister Tony Blair flew back from a key meeting in Washington with George W. Bush, after which the US president said the issue of Iraqi disarmament would "come to a head in a matter of weeks, not months."

British newspapers said that the two leaders had drawn up a timetable which could see US-led military action within six weeks if Iraqi President Saddam Hussein refused to give up weapons of mass destruction.

Blair said he doubted that Saddam would disarm voluntarily. "I certainly believe he is not going to comply because he has had years and years to do so," the Telegraph quoted Blair as saying.

"But it will be a judgment for the international community as a whole. I may be proved wrong; he may change. But I personally am very skeptical," Blair added.

Quoting defense sources, the Daily Telegraph said that a group of more than 100 men, consisting of the US Delta force and 35 men from Britain's Special Air Service (SAS), flew into Iraq by Chinook helicopter from Jordan.

The operation was the first case of allied special forces operating inside territory controlled by the Iraqi government, according to the Telegraph, which did not say when the mission took place.

Britain's defense ministry does not comment on the activities of special forces.

The Telegraph said that the mission was mounted after US intelligence reports that Scud missile launchers had been moved to the western Iraqi desert.

The special forces checked that the launchers were not false targets as part of an Iraqi deception plan. *AFP*

US poets plan to swamp White House with anti-war verse

LOS ANGELES—First lady Laura Bush may feel their dissenting words are unwelcome in her home, but a group of poets opposed to a war with Iraq plans to deluge the White House anyway with reams of anti-war verse in a national day of protest.

Their "Day of Poetry Against the War" is set for Feb. 12, the date Mrs. Bush had been scheduled to host a White House poetry symposium until she learned that some invited guests intended to use the event to criticize her husband's policy toward Iraq.

"While Mrs. Bush understands the right of all Americans to express their political views, this event was designed to celebrate poetry," the first lady's press office said in a statement explaining why the symposium had been indefinitely postponed.

The gathering, titled "Poetry and the American Voice," was to have spotlighted the works of Emily Dickinson, Walt Whitman and Langston Hughes, three poets known for speaking their minds.

Poet Sam Hamill, founding editor of noted poetry publisher Copper Canyon Press in Port Townsend, Washington, and organizer of the poets' protest, said the first lady's reaction shows "they clearly know very little about poetry or the nature of poets."

"Although poetry is written in solitude, it is social language, and all poems are political in one way or another," Hamill said on Friday. "So why they thought they could have a symposium on Whitman, and Hughes and Dickinson and have no politics involved is utterly beyond me."

He noted that Whitman and Hughes, in particular, were strongly identified with their views on political and social issues of their day.

Former US poet laureate Rita Dove, who like Hamill had been invited to the symposium but did not plan to attend, said the decision to call off the event reflects a hostility toward dissent on the part of the Bush administration.

"This White House does not wish to open its doors to an 'American Voice' that does not echo the administration's misguided policies," Dove, poet laureate from 1993 to 1995, said.

Lawrence Ferlinghetti, the famed Beat poet and founder of the City Lights Bookstore in San Francisco, said the idea of inviting a group of poets to the White House as the administration prepares for war was naive in the first place.

"The poet by definition is the bearer of freedom and love, and ... by definition he has to be an enemy of the state and everything the state does, and one of its primary activities, which is war." *Reuters*

SWAYED BY HER OWN BEAT

Dominique Battle, 5, third from left, does her own dance as she waits with a group of classmates during a pre-ballet class for 5- and 6-year-olds, Jan. 31, at the Dance etc. School of the Arts in Woodbridge, Va. AP

28 Pakistanis fall in Italy's biggest anti-terror operation

NAPLES, Italy—Italian police have arrested 28 Pakistanis suspected of links to al-Qaida in one of the biggest anti-terrorism operations Italy has seen since the Sept. 11 attacks on the United States.

Military police burst into an apartment in central Naples on Wednesday night as part of a routine sweep against illegal immigration and ended up discovering enough explosives to blow up a three-story building, officials said on Friday.

They arrested all 28 men staying in the apartment after finding 800 grams of explosives, 70 meters of fuse and various electronic detonators crammed behind a false wall.

Islamic religious texts, photos of "jihad" (holy war) martyrs, piles of false documents, maps of the Naples area, addresses of global contacts and more than 100 mobile telephones were also found in the run-down lodgings, police said.

A judicial source said the maps had various targets marked on them including the headquarters of Nato's southern European command on the city's outskirts, the US consulate in Naples and a US Navy air base at Capodichino, outside the city.

Lt. Col. Pat Barnes, a spokesperson for US European Command in Stuttgart, Germany, said protection levels at all US naval facilities in Italy were raised one notch on Thursday night as a result of the arrests.

In a statement, the police said they believed the men, aged 20 to 48, were members of Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida network.

"The men have been arrested and charged with association with international terrorism, illegal possession of explosive material, falsification of documents and receiving stolen goods," the statement from Naples police headquarters said.

Police said the explosive material was sufficient to make a bomb capable of blowing up a three-storey building and that some of the fuse was laced with highly flammable nitroglycerine.

As well as the religious texts written in Pakistan's main language Urdu, cuttings of Pakistani newspapers and manuscripts repeating the phrase "God is great" were found.

Pakistan's ambassador to Italy, Zafar Hilali, denied the men were terrorists and said the arrests appeared to form part of a campaign of targeting innocent Pakistanis living in Italy.

"From the information we have, none of these arrests had anything to do with terrorism," he said, adding that 24 of the men had applied for permits to work in Italy and were legal.

They were unfortunate only to be living in what he said was a Mafia-owned house. *Reuters*

North Korean-built tunnels a testament to nightmare of war

By Joseph Coleman

BENEATH THE DEMILITARIZED ZONE, Korea—In the tunnel's dank subterranean air, a nightmare scenario of war begins with the steady thud of boots on granite.

South Koreans once feared that thousands of North Korean soldiers—armed with rifles, grenades and bayonets—would surge through the dark, hundreds of feet below the ground, then burst to the surface far into South Korean territory.

Infiltration Tunnel No. 3, one of four North Korean-built tunnels found burrowed under the world's most heavily fortified border, is at once a Cold War relic and a warning of the terror a real war would bring.

Chances are remote for now that heightened tensions over North Korea's nuclear weapons development will ignite a war. Military commands on the border say they see no signs the North is preparing for battle.

But Tunnel No. 3, discovered a quarter-century ago, is chilling evidence of North Korea's enduring war-siege mentality. The South Korean military estimates 10,000 North Korean soldiers would have been able to rush through the tunnel per hour.

"There are not many options for North Korea on the ground or in the air," said Kim Chang-su, senior research fellow at the Korea Institute for Defense Analyses in Seoul. "But under the surface of the earth, we just can not stop them."

A visit to the tunnel begins innocently enough.

Tourists—screened at a military checkpoint just south—board a rollercoaster-like open-air train that slowly enters an access tunnel leading down to the excavation site.

Once at the site, the North Korean feat of stealth and engineering is in full view.

The North Koreans built the tunnel by dynamite-blasting 1,635 meters south, slipping beneath the Military Demarcation Line. It penetrates 435 meters into South Korea, and its average depth is 73 meters.

Down below, the air is warm and moist. An orange pipe along the ground brings oxygen from the surface, and the South Koreans have dabbed yellow paint on dig marks on the wall that they say show the drillers were headed south.

The tunnel was no rush-job. Its builders carefully painted the walls of the passageway with charcoal—presumably to make it look like a coal mine. And the tunnel was built at a slight incline so water would not flow South, where it might raise suspicions.

The ultimate plan, the South Korean military says, was to bore far past the border and underneath the Imjin River south of the border, allowing invaders to circumvent front-line defenses on a destructive march to Seoul.

That plan was frustrated in 1978, when South Koreans working on a tip from a North Korean defector bored holes deep into the ground in search of an underground passage. Water gushed out of one of them—evidence of a subterranean dynamite blast.

Realizing they had been found out, the North Koreans withdrew. Their government has denied involvement with the tunnels, accusing the United Nations Command that patrols the Demilitarized Zone of a hoax.

Today, the tunnel ends abruptly near the access tunnel, just some 40 km north of Seoul. *AP*

SEPARATED AT BIRTH?
RUSSIAN President Vladimir Putin, left, and Dobby, the house elf character from the movie "Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets," are shown in this photo combo. Moviegoers around the world have been struck by the resemblance between Putin and Dobby. AP

Editor, 42 others charged over anti-Thai Cambodia riots

PHNOM PENH—A newspaper editor and 42 others were charged Saturday over violent anti-Thai riots sparked by rumors that a Thai actress had insulted Cambodia.

In Chansivutha, 48, editor of Rasmei Angkor (Light of Angkor), was formally accused of inciting the riots by publishing false information, while 42 others were charged with destruction of property and looting.

The editor is the second journalist to be charged over inciting the riots, after Beehive Radio station owner Mam Sonando appeared in court Friday. Both men are being held in custody.

A total of 170 people have been arrested over the riots in Phnom Penh on Wednesday night, in which one person was killed as protesters stormed and torched the Thai embassy and Thai-owned hotels and businesses.

Aside from those charged Saturday and Mam Sonando, the others have been released while investigations continue, a police spokesperson said.

In Chansivutha said his report, which claimed soap opera star Suvanant Kongying had said Cambodia's world-famous Angkor Wat temples belonged to Thailand, was based on information provided by three women who came to his office.

They said they had seen the actress make the comments on Thai cable television.

The editor admitted that he had not verified their story, but told reporters outside the court: "I only wrote with good intentions to protect the interest of the nation. I had no ability to investigate whether she had really said that or not and my aim was to allow the country and the government to investigate." The actress has denied making the marks attributed to her, and the prosecution of the editor marks the first acknowledgement by authorities that the information was erroneous.

The president of the League of Cambodian Journalists, of which In Chansivutha is a member, accompanied him to court.

"I think his arrest is wrong because in his article there were no inciting words," said Om Chandara.

He pointed out that several other newspapers had later picked up the story and expanded on it, suggesting that "if they want to arrest the journalists, they have to arrest four or five from other newspapers." The main fault, however, lay with the authorities who failed to protect the Thai embassy and Thai-owned businesses from attack by the infuriated mob, Om Chandara said. *AFP*

7M people live illegally in US

WASHINGTON—The number of immigrants living illegally in the United States jumped by 1 million in under four years, the government reported Friday.

In the latest count, based on the 2000 Census and INS statistics, the Immigration and Naturalization Service reported that roughly 7 million immigrants, mostly Mexicans, were living illegally in the United States as of January 2000.

That's an increase over the 5.8 million illegal immigrants the INS said lived in the country as of October 1996. The population grew on average during the 1990s by 350,000 a year, about 75,000 more per year than reported in earlier INS estimates.

The totals are likely to trigger further outcry from groups seeking greater restrictions on immigration and tougher enforcement of immigration laws.

"These numbers again confirm . . . that America has lost control of its borders," said Steve Camarota, research director for Center for Immigration Studies, a group that wants to curb immigration.

Since the Sept. 11, 2001 terror attacks, US immigration laws and enforcement have been under heightened scrutiny. But all 19 of the hijackers entered the country legally, with travel, student or business visas. Most of the visas were still valid at the time of the attacks. *AP*

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Cebu cops told to just shoot criminals

By Suzzane Salva
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—Controversial Assistant Provincial Prosecutor of Cebu Vicente Manalac has done it again.

The prosecutor who had earlier requested that he be armed with an M-16 rifle with 150 rounds of ammunition for his alleged safety this time supports the "shooting of criminal elements."

In his Jan. 30 letter to Chief Supt. Rolando Garcia, regional police director for Central Visayas, Manalac even proposed that more criminals "be shot by the police lawfully in the interest of public service."

"May there be many more criminals to be shot by the police lawfully in the interest of public service. As a slogan: 'shoot them all in the interest of public service,'" the letter read.

His unsolicited reaction was in response to newspaper reports about the recent spate of shooting of thieves, robbers, drug pushers and other criminals by Cebu City policemen.

Since Jan. 15, policemen have shot eight suspected criminals in Cebu City, killing four and wounding four others.

Garcia had defended his men, saying those criminal elements were killed or wounded in legitimate operations. He denied insinuations that there was an order to summarily execute suspected criminals, saying the policemen were just doing their jobs.

The series of shootings had worried human rights activists in the city. But Manalac felt the opposite.

"I am sure the public feels good about the actions of your men, as well as I. They shot those criminals and disabled some of them rightfully and justifiably in accordance and in the spirit of self-defense of themselves and the public they are sworn to protect," Manalac told Garcia.

The prosecutor said criminals will not fear but instead will ridicule the police should they hesitate to draw their guns.

"The police should learn to use those guns not merely display it as an ornament . . . Sometimes gunfire is the only language criminals understand," he said.

Manalac said he did not only appreciate but also supports "personally and in my official capacity" every member of the Philippine National Police who does not hesitate to shoot when duty calls.

"For every bullet fired it is a victory for the public who benefits from every criminal disabled or terminated," he pointed out.

Garcia, when sought for reaction, appeared amused with Manalac's letter. He however quickly assured the public that the PNP follows the rules of engagement.

"In the PNP, we use progressive application of force in subduing (a) subject. If shot at, then shoot him. The ideal situation is to immobilize the suspect. But you know that in a situation like this, adrenaline works fast," Garcia explained.

While the letter of support would make the police feel good, Garcia said his men were always reminded to be circumspect in the use of their firearms.

Acting Cebu City Police Director Supt. Josephus Angan also assured that the use of a firearm against a suspected criminal is the last course of action, when the police have exhausted all other peaceful means.

"Shooting criminals should be governed by what is in the law—doctrine of self-defense and in the defense of a stranger," he said.

1 killed, 2 wounded in tribal conflicts

CAMP DANGWA, La Trinidad, Benguet—A man was killed while three others were wounded in separate shootings caused by tribal conflicts in Kalinga and Mt. Province on Thursday, reports here said.

Chief Supt. Victor Luga, Cordillera police director, said Roy Alcanzarin, a member of Guilayon tribe in Tinglayan, Kalinga, was killed after his group engaged members of the Basao tribe in a gunfight in Barangay San Juan in the capital town of Tabuk.

Luga said Joe Baggas, a member of the Basao tribe, was wounded.

Police said the gunfight was a result of an earlier conflict between the two tribes over the killing of Gabriel Anciano, a member of the Guilayon tribe, on Jan. 7.

Luga said the Guilayon tribe members attacked the Basao tribe members at 12:30 p.m. on Thursday.

"But instead of killing an enemy, they lost one member in the shootout," he said.

In Mt. Province, members of the Bugnay tribe of northern Kalinga ambushed Tinged Faino and Aida Fangao, both farmers, in Sadanga, Mt. Province, also on Thursday.

Faino and Fangao, who are members of the Betwagan tribe, were wounded and taken to the Bontoc General Hospital in Bontoc, Mt. Province.

The tribes have been disputing provincial boundaries since last year.

Luga said the new wave of tribal war has jeopardized the agreement between police officials and Cordillera tribal elders that talks would be initiated to resolve the conflicts between warring tribes mostly in Kalinga and Mt. Province.

Luga said elders of the conflicting tribes of Bugnay, Betwagan, Basao and Guilayon have agreed to meet for a "peace pact" this month in Tabuk.

"But I don't think that is possible with the new wave of killing," he said.

He said more policemen have been sent to Mt. Province and Kalinga to stop possible retaliations from members of the warring tribes.

"With Guilayon losing another member, the possibility of more bloodshed is imminent," Luga said. *Jovelyn Reyes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

PARATROOP

DENNIS SABANGAN

Exercises between US and Philippine soldiers make a good landing in Clark, Pampanga where an American soldier packs up his parachute after aerial manuevers above the former US military base.

Honest cabbie accepts Davao execs' offer of job

DAVAO CITY—"I have a good background of myself . . . I am a good servant of the community . . . I am a good driver and I like to travel."

This was how Sonny Boy Encio, the taxi driver who returned P18,500 in cash left by a passenger inside his cab a few days ago, described himself in the resumé he submitted to the city government.

Encio, 31, was earlier promised a job at the City Hall after he handed over the money to Acting Vice Mayor Amilbangsa Manding.

When City Administrator Melchor Quitain told him the city government needs people like him, Encio, who drives a Michelle Taxi as an "extra," was ecstatic.

Yesterday, Quitain said Encio would be given a job that would fit his skills.

Aside from a positive prospect of joining the city government, Encio also got a couple of other surprises.

Jane Avengonzado, the owner of the money, invited him to her wedding.

Jane was to use the money to pay for her bridal gown and cake.

Aside from the invitation, Encio also got P2,000 in cash as his reward from Jane.

When the reward was being handed to him, Encio appeared to be having second thoughts.

But Quitain and Manding insisted he accept the reward because it is the law.

Article 720 of the Civil Code of the Philippines prescribes that the finder of a lost item is entitled to a reward equivalent to one tenth of the amount found.

Encio, who never finished college, said his dream was to become a police officer.

He said he still wants to become one someday.

Encio never saw his father, who died in Cebu, when he was still young. His mother now lives in Zamboanga del Sur attending to their small farm and sari-sari store.

Encio now lives with his girlfriend of one and a half years, whom he intends to marry once he gets a secure job.

And perhaps, wedding bells would soon toll for the couple with Encio's upcoming job in the city government. *Ayan C. Mellejor, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

NPA guerrillas execute former member of rebel hit squad

CALBIGA, Samar—Six suspected communist gunmen gunned down last week a former guerrilla before a crowd of about 100 attending a cockfight during a village fiesta here.

Mario Ocasla, a former member of an NPA hit squad, was shot several times at close range on Jan. 26 during a cockfight in his village, Barangay Bolangi, about a kilometer from the town proper, according to Insp. Ruben Bilada, the town police chief.

Ocasla suffered nine gunshot wounds in the head, back, stomach and legs.

Ocasla had gone mainstream and ran and lost in the 2002 barangay elections, police said.

SPO1 Vergilio Allid said Ocasla was placing a bet when six armed men arrived. One of them went straight to Ocasla and opened fire with a .9-mm pistol.

The gunman switched to a .45-cal. pistol and continued firing at Ocasla who was already sprawled on the ground.

The gunman stopped firing only after one of his accomplices approached him.

Calbiga has been a peaceful town and "this was the first time that such killing occurred (in this town)," Allid said.

Police said the armed men belonged to the NPA's Alex Ortiz Command operating in Samar.

Rosario Ocasla, 43, wife of the victim, said her husband has no known enemy. *Mark Villavicencio, PDI Visayas Bureau*

Man draws 8 death sentences for rape

URDANETA CITY—A regional trial court judge here meted out eight death sentences to a man who was found guilty of raping his 22-year-old maid eight times in Asingan town in 2001.

Judge Joven Costales of the heinous crime court here imposed the eight death terms on Romeo Labong Sr., 42.

Court records showed that Labong took the woman, his village mate in Balaoan, La Union, as his maid in August 2001.

After working for him for more than two months, the woman was raped by Labong from November to December 2001, according to court documents. Labong, the court records said, threatened to kill a member of the woman's family if she would report the abuses.

Revelation

However, in January 2002, the victim returned to La Union and told her parents about the abuses.

Records showed that Labong's wife was in the United States when the abuses took place.

Labong denied the victim's accusations, claiming that he and his maid had intercourse several times because they were lovers.

Costales, however, ruled that Labong's "mistress theory" was a mere concoction of Labong.

Disgrace

"If she had voluntarily consented to have (sexual relations) with him, the natural reaction (was) for her to keep silent as this would bring disgrace to her honor and reputation as well as (to) her family," Costales said.

He said the victim had no motive to charge Labong with rape, which involves the maximum penalty of death, if there was no truth to the accusation.

The court asked Labong to pay the victim P50,000 for each count of rape or a total of P400,000 in damages. *Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Miner found dead in tunnel

DAVAO CITY—A miner was found dead inside a tunnel in the gold rush area of Mt. Diwata in Compostela Valley on Wednesday morning, the police said yesterday.

Police investigators said they believed that Carmelo Dotullo, 32, an 'abantero' of Blucor Mining Corp., was a victim of summary execution.

Blucor is one of various companies locked in the violent quest for control of the gold-rich area.

More than 2,000 people, mostly employees of mining companies there, have reportedly been killed since gold was discovered in the area more than 10 years ago.

Dotullo went missing on Jan. 7 after unidentified men allegedly picked him up in front of his house in Valiant, Nang District.

Arsenio Landa, in charge of Blucor's services and engineering division, discovered Dotullo's decomposing body around 9 a.m.

The government has taken over mining operations on Diwalwal after clashes between miners. *Anthony S. Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

SC suspends lawyer who took opposing camps as clients

CEBU CITY—The Supreme Court has suspended for three months one of Cebu's most prominent lawyers, former Integrated Bar of the Philippines(IBP)-Cebu City chapter president Bernardito Florido, for representing opposing parties in a land dispute.

Supreme Court Justice Vicente Mendoza of the Third Division, in an order signed Jan. 22, suspended Florido for violating the Code of Professional Responsibility, the code of ethics governing the legal profession.

Florido, when reached for comment, said he has yet to receive the order but said he would respect the Supreme Court order.

"Rightly or wrongly, the Supreme Court has spoken," he said.

Florido said his suspension also served as a lesson to him and other lawyers to be more careful in accepting cases.

According to lawyer Conrad Tolentino, a director of the Public Information Office of the Supreme Court, Florido has represented himself as lawyer of both parties in a land dispute involving a warring couple.

Tolentino said the case's records showed that the complaint against Florido was lodged sometime in 2001 by a Mr. Abaquita. The complaint was initially filed before the IBP but because Florido and then IBP president Arthur Lim were good friends, the IBP inhibited itself from handling the case and instead turned it over to the High Tribunal.

Abaquita, according to Tolentino, had retained Florido as legal counsel in a land dispute he had with his wife, Milagros. After Florido quit as Abaquita's lawyer, he represented Milagros in the same case.

Tolentino said Florido had told the High Tribunal that he was not aware that the case he represented for Abaquita was not yet over. He also told the Supreme Court that he thought at that time that the case he represented for Milagros was a separate case.

But Tolentino said the Supreme Court did not believe Florido's statements.

Florido yesterday said he recalled handing a land dispute case in the 1980s but he had forgotten that it involved Abaquita because his mother, Bonifacia Pahayahay, then represented him.

Eight years later, his law office accepted the case of Milagros Abaquita not knowing it was the same dispute as the Pahayahay case.

Florido said it was already too late when his fellow lawyer, Jose Palma, told him that it was the same case involving the Abaquita couple.

Florido said he already appeared in court for Milagros when he learned about the mistake and immediately withdrew as her counsel.

Tolentino said the suspension order would take effect as soon as Florido gets the ruling. Florido could file a motion for reconsideration within 15 days after he gets the suspension order but it would not stop the enforcement of the suspension order, he added.

Thus, for three months or until the suspension is lifted, Florido could not appear in court, sign or notarize documents.

Tolentino said the Supreme Court also sent notices to the different courts nationwide and the IBP so that they would be aware of Florido's suspension.

Florido had represented several controversial cases in Cebu, including becoming legal counsel of cult leader Ruben Ecleo Jr. who was charged with parricide for the murder of the Ecleo's wife Alona Bacolod in January last year. Florido withdrew from the case for still unknown reasons.

He also ran for mayor in Cebu City in 1998 but lost to former mayor Alvin Garcia. *Jhunnex Napallacan, PDI Visayas Bureau*

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INQUIRER Mindanao
Editor Jun Bandayrel ◉ Bureau Chief Nico A. Alconaba

'War' rages between farmers, 'lumad' over Guingona land

By Ellen P. Red
Maramag, Bukidnon

WHO are the rightful owners of the Guingona estate, comprising nearly 400 hectares of land, in Barangay San Miguel in Maramag, Bukidnon?

Manobo residents are claiming ownership over the land occupied, possessed and utilized by their ancestors since time immemorial. On the other hand, farmers who are now tilling the land, insist it is theirs.

In pushing their claim, the *lumad* (indigenous peoples) are pointing at the Indigenous Peoples Rights Act (Ipra) of 1997, while the farmers are staking theirs on the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law (CARL) of 1988.

Some 200 members of the Tigbabao and Aliga clans of the Manobo tribe have filed their Ancestral Land Claims (ALCs) over the property before the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) office in Malaybalay City.

The lead claimants, Carmen Tigbabao Lopez and Samuel Aliga Indigal, said their forefathers occupied portions of what is now known as the Guingona estate but they were displaced through deceit by the lowlanders or "*dumagat*." After World War II, they said, their ancestors allowed the lowlanders to utilize a portion of their ancestral land. The lowlanders later claimed ownership over the land.

A PORTION of the Guingona estate seized by the Manobos.

ELLEN RED

The Guingonas

In 1975, the Guingona family bought the area claimed by the Manobo clans from another lowlander.

The estate is titled under the names of Luis Guingona, brother of Vice President Teofisto Guingona; two corporations owned and managed by Luis and his family—Philippine Greenhills & Development Corp. (PGDC) and Tri-Tree Corp.; Wilfred Guingona, son of Luis; Josefina Guingona, wife of Luis; Virginia Diel, wife of Wilfred; Narciso Jayme, an employee of PGDC and Tri-Tree; Elsa Jayme, wife of Narciso; Miguel Jimeno, manager of PGDC; Elena Daug, an employee of PGDC; and Rufino Dayupay, chief mechanic of PGDC.

In 1989, close to 400 hectares of the Guingona estate was placed under the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program by the Department of Agrarian Reform.

Based on records of the DAR office in Maramag, the department had already issued Certificates of Land Ownership Award (CLOAs) covering close to 400 hectares of the estate to 162 farmer beneficiaries. Eighty-two other beneficiaries have yet to be identified for CLOAs covering over 83 other hectares of land.

In the early 1990s, the Guingonas questioned the compensation given by the government over their landholding before the DAR Adjudication Board (Darab). By mid-1990s, they withdrew their case against the government and instead voluntarily sold their land to the DAR.

Although the Guingona clan offered their landholding to the government in 1998, it leased a vast potion of the property to Agila Farms, Inc.

Farmers' claim

In the early 1990s, only a few of the close to 200 farm workers of PGDC and Tri-Tree submitted themselves for screening and identification by the DAR, while the majority did not heed the invitation for registration out of fear of being terminated from employment with the two corporations.

Due to the failure and refusal of the farm workers to come out and undergo the government's screening process, other interested farm workers, though not employed by the Guingona clan, were deemed qualified as CARP beneficiaries.

The farm workers of the Guingona clan later realized their mistake. Before the Darab, they questioned the decisions of the provincial and municipal agrarian reform officers in distributing the land to those who were not actually hired by the clan. They said they should have been given priority in the land distribution under the CARL.

In a decision dated Sept. 23, 1997, Jimmy Tapangan, adjudicator of Darab-Northern Mindanao, said: "In effect, having shown unwillingness and reluctance to cooperate in the first notice of registration and identification, plaintiffs (farm workers of the Guingona clan) have thereby waived and forfeited their rights of priority even as they are the actual farmworkers of the land."

Tapangan further said: "... CARP implementation is time-bound and those charged with the implementation cannot be made to wait for potential FBs [farmer beneficiaries] who cannot as yet make up their minds."

Pattern of violence

On Sept. 20, 1997, after two months of occupying portions of the Guingona estate, PGDC armed guards destroyed the crops planted by eight beneficiaries, as well as shanties and houses built by the beneficiaries. These incidents were reported to Palambu, a federation of farmers' organizations in Bukidnon, by Nenita Loja, wife of one of the victims.

On April 19, 2000, about 100 farm workers belonging to the Kapunungan ng Mamumuong Mag-uuma sa Philippine Greenhills (KAMMPhil) seized portions of the estate that was leased out to Agila Farms. They established a checkpoint and prohibited the entry of employees and workers of Agila Farms.

Consequently, Agila Farms filed a case of forcible entry against leaders and members of KAMMPhil before the Municipal Circuit Trial Court (MCTC) of Maramag-Pangantucan-Kalilangan.

Late 2001, 32 members of the San Miguel Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries Farmers Association (SMARBEFA), with the assistance of DAR personnel, tried to enter the 98 hectares of the Guingona estate that had been awarded to them. They were stopped by close to 200 members of KAMMPhil and the Philippine Greenhills & Tri-Tree Development (Philtreed) Workers Credit Cooperative, another group of Guingona farm workers.

A DAR sheriff was injured during the blockade.

On Jan. 30, 2001, Aaron Rodrigo, DAR legal officer of Malaybalay, and Lope Porquis, municipal agrarian reform officer (Maro) of Maramag, reported to the town police that 30 members of the Kapunungan sa Gamay Mag-uuma ug Mamumuo sa San Miguel (Kagmasami), led by Glenn Senit, foiled the installation of CLOA holders in another portion of the Guingona estate, covering 30 hectares.

The Kagmasami members carried bolos and cane cutters, Rodrigo reported.

On Nov. 30 last year, 20 members of the Aliga clan tried to build their shanties on the portion of land occupied by farm workers belonging to Philtreed. Clan leader Samuel Aliga said they were stopped by Philtreed members who held wooden slabs.

While the Aliga clan failed in their attempt, the Tigbabao clan succeeded.

In December last year, Nova Balondo, a member of Kagmasami, claimed that her sugar cane and that of her neighbors were harvested by groups led by Carmen Tigbabao Lopez, head of the Tigbabao clan. Lopez was backed up by close to 50 members of the Tribal Force. an association of indigenous peoples from all over Bukidnon.

When this writer visited the area seized by the Tigbabaos, tribal warriors (*alimaong*) wielding long bolos stood guard.

Last month, Porquis said the DAR was planning to install the Cloa holders on the Guingona estate. The plan was again not pushed through for humanitarian reasons, as the crops planted by the farm workers who did not possess any Cloa were soon to be harvested.

During another visit to the Guingona estate last month, this writer found that while awaiting the arrival of DAR officials for the installation process, *lumad* occupants positioned themselves at a hilly portion of the Guingona estate, the Cloa holders gathered along the highway, and the farm workers without Cloa stayed put in the areas they have occupied.

Maramag police director Chief Insp. Rodolfo Estaniel, San Miguel barangay chair Camilo Tigbabao and Porquis said they had received reports that all the claimants were arming themselves. The three officials said they could not act upon the reports because no one was willing to testify.

Demystifying the complexities of Mindanao

By Christine Godinez-Ortega
Iligan City

HISTORIANS Samuel K. Tan and Heidi K. Gloria have packed into 156 pages the multicultural and multiethnic histories of Mindanao in this first comprehensive history book titled "Mindanao and Sulu: History, Peoples and Institutions."

BOOK REVIEW

Published by the Southern Philippines Development Authority and launched in December 2002, the book seeks to balance the Luzon-centric Philippine histories that glosses over, for example, the struggles of the Moro and indigenous groups against Spain long before the start of the Philippine Revolution or long before Rizal, Bonifacio, Aguinaldo, Del Pilar or the Luna brothers were born.

The reader likewise can glean much from the qualities of leadership of Mindanao heroes like Datus Utto, Ali and Piang who, in their own way, tried to survive the colonialists' divide-and-rule tactics. In time, these heroes will take their proper places in the nation's history as we know it today.

Significant details of their lives and contributions must be mentioned and analyzed, too. In fact, a senator for Mindanao and Sulu during the American occupation, Hadji Butu, had for his first bill the establishment of a Philippine Military Academy and a Naval Academy in the country. Such detail deserves recognition, if only to balance the space given to, for instance, what make of handkerchief and what other personal effects were left behind by the hero Gregorio del Pilar when he was killed at Tirad Pass.

On the other hand, the more significant aspects of this book are the first two chapters where origin myths and ethno-history play a vital role in the presentation and interpretation of the sociopolitical-cultural makeup of the present Mindanao peopled by the early settlers, like the Kalagan, Subanon, Lutao, Magindanaoan, Tausog, Tiruray, T'boli, B'laan, Mamanua, Bagobo, Manobo, Bukidnon and Tagbanua.

These chapters, therefore, make us proud that before Westerners came to Mindanao, its peoples had their own histories and inevitable conflicts began and were resolved according to each group's sociocultural organization, movement and behavior.

It is also remarkable that Mindanao's wildlife, such as the *tabon* bird and the *hamac* monkey found in the Caragan (Kalagan) are woven into the historical narrative. This and other facts about the Mindanao landscape had been, ironically, supplied by Spanish chroniclers but were not given importance by historians Antonio Molina, Gregorio Zaide and Teodoro Agoncillo.

Interdisciplinary

The book, in other words, uses an interdisciplinary approach in the study of history because folklore and anthropology become workable partners of history in the authors' attempts to ferret out the past to interpret and understand better the present realities.

Aside from Tan and Gloria, there has been a surfeit of individual histories, whether area-based or group-based, from Mindanao published by local and foreign historians, among them, Cesar Majul, James Francis Warren, Miguel Bernad, Francisco Demetrio, Fernando Almeda, Jr., Greg Hontiveros, Ernesto Corcino, Evelyn Mallilin-Jamboy, Jamail Kamlian, Geoffrey Salgado, Michael Mastura, Nagasura Madale, Rudy Rodil, Peter Gowing and Mamitua Saber.

But their works are either out of print or in limited editions. It is, therefore, a bold step and about time that Tan and Gloria put out a complete history of Mindanao that is accessible to the public.

On the other hand, even if the research is good, we can see the unevenness in the telling about certain groups in Mindanao.

Tan's sure hand in the writing of Sulu history and the Islamization of Mindanao, and his lucid discussion of the Philippine "*ummah*" and "folk Islam" in these parts of the world seem to outshine the telling of the rest of the histories of Mindanao. Perhaps, again, this is due to the scholar's biased views of Mindanao's Muslims whose conflicts with the Christianized *indios* always have religious underpinnings.

Through Tan's access to primary sources and his critical interpretation of what has been documented, we get a glimpse of the heroism of our Muslim brothers who fought the Spanish and American colonial forces to defend their land, religion and cultural heritage.

And from Gloria, stories of the heroic exploits of the Bagani of Agusan, the Timuay of the Zamboanga peninsula, and the bravery of the Christian groups in the western and northern parts of the island are succinct enough.

What fresh treatment we find here is the role of the Dapitanons led by Don Pedro Manuel Manooc in the Spanish conquest of Manila and Camarines, based, in turn, on Combes' accounts in the 17th century. Combes' account of the nation of Dapitan proved important in the search of former Iligan City mayor Camilo Cabili for his roots from Don Pedro Cabellin, son of Dona Maria Uray and Don Gonzalo Maglenti, cousin and son-in-law of Manooc.

Economic bases

The book by Tan and Gloria, too, introduces the layman to the economic bases for politico-sociocultural leaderships of the ethnic groups and the changes that happened during their acculturation. Through time, some groups, along with their traditional leaders have lost their power and wealth although the book tells us that the traditional leaders continue to exert moral influence over their people today.

More instructive are the capsulized concepts of how the Moro, Muslim, *lumad* and the migrants have become part of the consciousness of today's Filipinos.

The book has six chapters that begins with our Asian roots and ends with the Second World War. An epilogue suggests that the authors are planning a sequel whose aims are grand and practical.

The book was produced with three concerns in mind—national and international attention on the armed conflicts in Mindanao such as the struggles of the Bangsamoro people and their demand for a separate, Islamic State and the wrong impressions created by the notoriety of the Abu Sayyaf, the problems brought about by the armed conflicts between Christians and non-Christians and its serious implications on the country's destiny, and the island's natural and human resources and their potential for progress and development "to be harnessed by a credible political leadership."

The last aim is often repeated but still is an astute one in the light of most Filipinos' divisiveness and obsession with politics these days. Mindanao, too, has not been spared from this divisiveness, and it is through this book that we see how each group, believing in its own "nationhood," became part of the Philippine government through the sword and the pen, under the cross and the crescent.

Ethno-history

In this present volume, as well as in his other work, "A History of the Philippines," Tan reasserted his historiographic approach in the study of the country's history to better deal with the "totality of Filipino culture and the Filipino nation."

Co-author Gloria deserves credit for giving ethno-history (as defined by Eric Wolf and Robert Carmack), a respectable place in the understanding of the cultures of Mindanao, even as we know that her fame rests primarily with her study of the Bagobo of Davao.

Admittedly, Tan and Gloria are aware of the "gaps and omissions that are obvious" in the present volume which they attribute to the project's limited budget and its completion in just 12 months.

But the vision for which the book began is a significant contribution towards the understanding of a complex island of many promises. And by its very complexity, there is a need to produce a history book for Mindanao through the collaboration of local historians and other scholars, who have studied the languages and cultures of the various ethnic groups.

Already, a similar undertaking has been done for the country's regional literatures in the textbook, "Filipinos Writing: Philippine literature from the Regions" (Anvil Publishers, 2001).

The same strategy can apply to Mindanao's history in which this present historic work by Tan and Gloria will serve as the spark for more volumes to come. A general editor can then be called upon to restyle the corpus for a fluid read of a demystified Mindanao.

Tancangco . . .

From page A1

Belinda Cunanan, Miguel Perez-Rubio, and Namfrel members including lawyer Jose Bernas and Telibert Laoc.

Young said she went to Congress "to support Namfrel" in the case against Tancangco. She said she wanted Tancangco investigated, especially for her failure to automate the 2001 elections.

Young said she saw how "people paid for their lives" in guarding the ballot during the May 2001 elections because the Comelec failed to have the vote counting automated.

Asked to comment on Zobel's presence at the House debates, Tancangco said she saw no reason for Zobel to "harbor grudges" against her. She said she has never been introduced to any of the Zobels.

Tancangco said the Zobels might just have been influenced by other people like Jose Concepcion, who chairs the National Movement for Free Elections (Namfrel) which spearheaded the impeachment move.

"On my own, I cannot win against them given their money and influence, but I have full trust in God who is all-powerful and just and righteous," Tancangco said.

She said she has not had the chance to explain or even meet people like the Zobels because "they're just very far."

Dagger looks

Some congressmen are apparently feeling pressured by the presence of civil society groups in the House.

Davao Rep. Prospero Nograles yesterday predicted his colleagues would junk the impeachment complaint next week when the chamber holds the crucial vote on the issue.

Nograles said some congressmen did not like the way members of civil society, particularly "some snotty members of the (Namfrel) and the Makati Business Club," stared at them during floor debates last week.

"Some congressmen were irked because some of those who were pushing for the impeachment were throwing them dagger looks during the debate," Nograles said in a statement.

"They were acting like they could force their will upon members of Congress."

Nograles said congressmen should not tolerate such displays of arrogance.

"We should not allow ourselves to be terrorized by these people, however rich and powerful they are."

But Deputy Speaker Raul Gonzalez said the presence of pressure groups in Congress was a "minor matter."

What was important, he said, was for congressmen to vote on the merits of the complaint.

"We shouldn't feel outraged just because some people go out there and look at you (that way)," he said.

Last week, Nograles had expressed irritation at a newspaper advertisement put out by Namfrel prior to the House vote on the impeachment.

The paid ads, which came out in the Inquirer, named the congressmen who were for and against the investigation of Tancangco. Those who have yet to take a stand on the issue were also listed.

Nograles was listed among the congressmen who were against the investigation.

"They're spending so much money to name congressmen and make it appear that those who do not go with them are against the people," Nograles had told the Inquirer.

Tancangco had found a strong ally in Comelec chair Benjamin Abalos Sr. who defended the commissioner last Wednesday, saying she was "very different from what she is being portrayed to be."

"She knows what she's doing, and she's very, very sincere," Abalos had said during a press forum.

He added that "the lady" should not be singled out and prosecuted for the acts of the whole Commission.

"I will do my best to give moral support, but I will not go out of my way and impede justice," Abalos had said. *With reports from Blanche Rivera*

US general to tackle RP role in Iraq war

From page A1

each other in case of attack.

But Reyes told the Inquirer yesterday in a phone interview that it was too early to say whether US planes would be allowed to fly over the Philippines in the event of a US-led invasion of Iraq.

He said the Philippine government would decide on this once the US government presented its case against Iraq before the UN Security Council on Feb. 5.

"The decision [to go to war] has not been reached yet. We will not comment until we get the results of that meeting," Reyes said.

Filipino American analyst Paolo Pasicolan recently quoted US State Secretary Colin Powell as saying that "many countries" would support a US-led war, and that the Philippines would "help the diplomatic argument greatly."

"The symbolic support of the Philippines for a war on Iraq is more valuable now that Germany and France have abdicated their responsibilities," said Pasicolan of the Washington-based think tank Heritage Federation.

'For the good of all'

In her weekly address yesterday, President Macapagal-Arroyo reiterated her support for the US case against Iraq's alleged production of weapons of mass destruction.

The President, who is to leave for Kuwait today to look into preparations for the evacuation of Filipinos there, urged Iraqi President Saddam Hussein to cooperate with UN arms inspectors "to avoid war for the good of all."

But the militant fisherfolk group Pamalakaya demanded to know the extent of the Philippines' planned involvement in the looming war.

In a statement, Pamalakaya secretary general Noli Serrano noted US Deputy State Secretary Richard Armitage's declaration that the United States would have access to 21 countries should it decide to attack Iraq.

Quoting Armitage, Pamalakaya also noted that 20 more countries would allow US overflights in the event of war.

"Is the Philippines one of the countries mentioned by Armitage?" Serrano said.

He also accused the President and "her military assets" of having drawn up a battle plan in support of the US military action and of hiding this from the Filipino public for fear of a backlash from anti-war activists.

Asked to comment, Col. Michael Manquiquiz, assistant chief of the AFP's public information office, said any overflight by a foreign aircraft had to be cleared with the Department of Foreign Affairs, and not with the military.

Former President Fidel Ramos likewise cautioned the Macapagal administration against supporting a US attack on Iraq without a UN resolution.

In an interview aired by dzRH's station in Cotabato City, Ramos said the administration should consider the possible dislocation of at least 1.4 million Filipinos in the Middle East.

Ramos raised the prospect of an oil crisis in the Philippines and the whole Asia-Pacific in case war breaks out.

He also said the looming US-led attack on Iraq was "different" from that in 1991, which had the approval of the UN.

But Ramos admitted that the Philippines could do nothing about the matter. He said any outside appeal to stop US President George W. Bush from attacking Iraq would be futile.

Only 6,000

The President said in her weekly address that only 6,000 of the 60,000 overseas Filipino workers in Kuwait would be relocated to safer ground in case of war.

The rest are supposedly unwilling to leave their jobs and have decided to stay put.

"The government is ready to implement selective and voluntary relocation and/or evacuation for the almost 1.5 million Filipinos in the Middle East," the President said, adding:

"We will be guided by the consideration that as much as possible, no one will lose his job, and at the same time, we continue our good relations with countries in the Middle East."

Ms Macapagal said her administration had "two plans" involving Kuwait: "for the 90 percent of the 60,000 Filipinos who prefer to stay there" and "for the 10 percent who have to be relocated to a safer place."

She said Saudi Arabia, Israel and Iran were considered safe, "so our OFWs there will be allowed to remain in their homes."

The President decided to fly to Kuwait only last Thursday. She and her small party will take off from Villamor Air Base at 9 a.m. today, according to a Palace official who asked not to be named.

The official said the traditional departure ceremonies would again be dispensed with.

The President is to meet with the emir of Kuwait during her short visit. Ople said yesterday that she would also conduct a command conference with the Philippine ambassadors and charges d'affaires in the Middle East.

She is expected back on Tuesday.

The Overseas Workers' Welfare Administration has so far allocated P250 million for the relocation/evacuation plans.

"I want to assure our people that I have the safety and welfare of our OFWs foremost in my mind," Ms Macapagal said.

But House Minority Leader Carlos Padilla said the President could very well "delegate to other officials" the task of looking into the welfare of OFWs in Kuwait.

He said that while it was a "good gesture" for the President to show concern for her constituents, the many problems on the home front made such a trip unnecessary.

Padilla said he could not help but note that Ms Macapagal's trip came when Congress was set to ratify the proposed absentee voting bill, which would allow Filipinos abroad to vote in national elections starting in 2004

Contingency plans

Secretary Reyes said in a radio interview that the AFP and the Department of National Defense had drawn up contingency plans in case local terror groups and insurgents mount surprise attacks to take advantage of the US-Iraq conflict.

He said agencies including the National Disaster Coordinating Council had been alerted to respond to any emergency.

"We are concerned, we are alert, we are prepared. But we should not overreact and panic. In any situation, when you are calm you can make good decisions," he said.

On another front, the President said the Philippines had readied its oil reserves and prepared measures to cope with a possible oil blockade.

She urged the public to bear with the rising fuel prices.

"If gasoline prices go up because of the war, we have to make sacrifices," she said, noting that "mere speculations about the impending war have already pushed prices up."

Ms Macapagal said past experience had shown that oil prices dropped once a war started.

"And because America is expected to easily win if there is war, [Middle East nations] will release their stored oil," she said. "So aside from praying that there would be no war, let's also pray that if there would be war, that it be a short one."

She also said the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board would make sure that fares would not rise this month.

Trade Secretary Mar Roxas has called for an emergency meeting of the National Price Coordinating Council, which he chairs.

The meeting, to be held next week, will tackle measures to avert price manipulation, hoarding and other unscrupulous practices.

"What we have to look after is the steady supply of our basic goods and commodities and their stable pricing amid the fears of war in the Middle East," Roxas said in a statement. *With reports from Dona Z. Pazzibugan and Christine O. Avendaño in Manila; Charlie C. Senase, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

GMA-Bush meeting at Oval Office set in April

From page A1

left for Manila on Jan. 30 to report to Ms Macapagal.

Del Rosario and US Ambassador to the Philippines Francis Ricciardone are to make a joint announcement in Manila on the official date and purpose of the President's visit, sources said.

At press time, the supposed suggested time frame for the visit is April 1-4 or April 2-5. Ms Macapagal had supposedly expressed preference to be back in the Philippines for the Holy Week, which starts on April 13, Palm Sunday.

Del Rosario is expected back in Washington next week.

Last October, American lobbyists for the Macapagal administration tried but failed to arrange a visit with Bush at the Crawford family ranch in Texas, the stature-raising site of meetings with major world leaders. But on Dec. 30, Ms Macapagal said she would not run for election in 2004—an announcement that, sources said, made her a "lame duck President" at a time when the United States needed a strong ally in the Philippines.

On Jan. 17, Bush invited Ms Macapagal "to visit Washington in the first half of this year to help you fulfill your vision" of a strong republic.

In announcing the invitation, White House spokesperson Ari Fleischer said the Philippines and the United States were "treaty allies and long-standing friends."

"The President looks forward to discussing continuing support and cooperation in the war on terror, and how the United States can support President [Macapagal-]Arroyo's economic reform agenda," Fleischer said.

Timing

Philippine watchers in Washington are wondering about the real reason behind the invitation in view of its timing and the decision to make it a state visit.

Some speculate that Bush is propping up Ms Macapagal and that he may urge her to reconsider her decision to step down when her term ends on June 30 next year.

They note that Ms Macapagal will be in the US capital after the war in Iraq—that is, if the United States decides to go to war the day after the United Nations' Hans Blix delivers his progress report on the arms inspection in Iraq on Feb. 14.

Reliable sources are also speculating that the war may start on March 1, before the onset of spring on March 20. They say this is a lesson learned from the 1991 Gulf War, when sandstorms drastically altered the landscape and presented a huge challenge to US military operations.

The US-led action on Iraq, dubbed "Shock and Awe," is expected to be heavy on missile power. It is also expected to be swift and decisive—that is, over in 15 days.

Paolo Pasicolan, Filipino American analyst at the Heritage Federation, a conservative think tank in Washington whose policy proposals are taken seriously by the Bush administration, offered another possible reason for Ms Macapagal's state visit.

"[The two Presidents] will probably discuss terrorism in Southeast Asia because that's still a problem, and it's a problem that the Philippines can help solve," Pasicolan said. "After all, the Bush administration argues that the war on Iraq is but a part of the war on terrorism."

Top political analyst Norman Ornstein expressed the same view. "It may have as much to do with terrorists in Southeast Asia, including the Philippines, Indonesia and Malaysia, as it does with Iraq," said the resident scholar of the American Enterprise Institute.

The AEI is another leading conservative think tank in this city. Among its previous resident scholars is Vice President Dick Cheney.

From the streets to the top of the world

From page A1

the cold pavement and the dark and cruel streets of the city.

But Melinda hasn't stoppped dreaming, and she hasn't stopped working hard. There is no ending yet to her story.

"My biggest dream is to have a house I could call my own. I've started to save for it," Melinda told the Inquirer in an interview on Wednesday.

To have a home for her and her mother has been her single biggest dream since she was a child. Her dream house is a simple one with a roof to protect them from the heat and the rain, windows to let in just the right amount of light and fresh air, and doors to keep strangers out—simple comforts of home she never had.

Her mother Liwayway did not live long enough to see that dream fulfilled. She died of lung cancer on Feb. 18, 1998. Melinda's father died of tuberculosis when she was two. What's ironic is that just when Melinda is on the verge of fulfilling her dream, her family would no longer be around to share it with her.

"There are times when I cry as I walk alone in the streets, because I see visions of my mother on the sidewalks. I loved her very much and I remember our moments together," Melinda said.

Melinda visits her mother's grave every week. She also visits their former "neighbors" in the streets of Paco to share her blessings and encourage them to send their children to school. Melinda was a consistent honor student at the Lucban Elementary School on Apacible Street in Paco, but she was often forced to skip classes when she became sickly due to stress and malnutrition.

Most outstanding stude

Despite having to go to school on an empty stomach, Melinda was so outstanding she was accelerated from grade three to five. She transferred to the Silahis ng Karatungan on Paz Street, where most students come from institutions caring for homeless and abandoned children. She graduated most outstanding student in 1995.

Melinda was accelerated from first to second year when she entered the Don Mariano Marcos High School the next year. She got first honors in second year but she decided to transfer because frequent gang fights in campus distracted and scared her. She finished high school at the Ramon Avencena High School in Quiapo, getting such awards as "Best in Attendance" and "Best Leader."

Melinda recalls how she would study for school and do her homework under the light of a street lamp near their shack. When the fast-food restaurant underwent renovation and forced them away from the light, she went under the neon sign of a bank across the street just so she could read her books and write at night.

Last January, Melinda was diagnosed with astigmatism and had to wear corrective eyeglasses.

Loren as inspiration

Melinda's life changed when Legarda's "The Inside Story" on ABS-CBN Channel 2 took interest in her exceptional story from among many cases of street children that the TV documentary program featured in its anniversary edition in July 1995. She was interviewed by Sharon Cuneta for that episode and she eventually met Legarda.

After that, Legarda would occasionally send food and school allowance to Melinda through Inside Story writer Diwata de Castro-Paredes, who developed a close friendship with her. Legarda also shouldered the expenses for the funeral of Melinda's mother.

The Inquirer also took interest in Melinda, and printed her inspiring story in its Dec. 26, 1995 issue with the headline "A story for President Ramos." The story was titled thus because at the end of the article, Melinda said she read about Ramos' frequent trips abroad which she said was unfortunate since he could have spent that time and travel money to provide poor people like them with decent shelter.

The story won for the author, Christine Herrera, the grand prize in the Louie R. Prieto Memorial Awards for Journalism in 1996.

With a high school diploma but still homeless and penniless, and without parents, Melinda knew that it would take more than guts and will to pursue a college education. Promises of scholarships from politicians and businessmen who came forward after learning of her story did not come.

Melinda said it was Legarda who encouraged her to continue her studies in a college course of her choice, pledging to provide for her tuition, monthly allowance, uniform, and books. She enrolled in a two-year secretarial course at the Access Technology Institute on Recto Avenue while still "going home" to the sidewalk in Paco.

Since the streets were no longer safe for Melinda, Violet de Borja, a family friend of the Legardas, brought her to the Missionaries of the Child Jesus on Estrella Street in Makati City on Oct. 25, 1998. Her "relocation" to a new home prompted her transfer to the nearer Trace Computer and Business College in Guadalupe.

In 2002, Melinda got her diploma in Bachelor of Science in Secretarial Administration. She had also taken 21 units in education, which now qualifies her to take the Licensure Examination for Teachers (LET).

Right after graduation, Melinda offered to work for Legarda, then already a senator, with or without pay. "I owed a lot to her, because she did not only provide for me but she also served as my inspiration. I had always been a big fan of hers," she said.

Melinda was taken in by Legarda, with pay, on May 29, 2002—she was very precise with dates—and was assigned to the archives section of the media staff where she put her education to good use. Her tasks include filing Legarda's pictures, news clippings and other publications, and safekeeping office supplies.

Legarda has also given Melinda free lodging in her residence, where the latter shares a room with some employees of the senator's husband, former Batangas Gov. Jose Antonio Leviste. In that room she keeps the fruits of her labor: clothes, a cassette player, a cellular phone, a rechargeable electric fan and her own bed.

Dream house

Melinda knows that someday she would have to look for her own house, her own place under the sun, so to speak. With her mother gone, she would like to share that house with her niece Monaliza, who has chosen to stay in the streets of Paco.

Monaliza, now 14, was left to the care of Melinda's mother by her unwed sister. She has frustrated Melinda's efforts to put her under the care of an institution, escaping from the Bahay Maria in Makati and later from a DSWD center in Laguna.

"I would like to start with her," Melinda said, when asked if she planned to help street children start new lives. Monaliza has stopped going to school since fourth grade.

Melinda will take the civil service eligibility examinations on April 13 and has applied to take the Licensure Examination for Teachers. She also plans to take up masteral studies.

"I have always wanted to be a teacher," she said. Life's trials has taught Melinda that poverty can be overcome by perseverance, discipline and hard work. Melinda's officemates attest that she has this positive attitude in life that shows in the way she deals with problems, whether personal or work-related.

Legarda said Melinda grew up to be a cheerful and optimistic girl, "*parang hindi lumaki sa hirap. Laging nakangiti* and she works hard."

"These people keep my feet on the ground. They make me want to reach out more to them and give them hope," Legarda said.

Melinda said she was not blaming anybody for the sufferings of street children like her. She just wished that parents would be responsible enough to take care of their children, and the government would do something to provide decent shelter to the homeless.

"The government can also help but it's the parents who should have the bigger responsibility," Melinda said.

Space shuttle Columbia with 7 astronauts explodes

From page A1

search and rescue teams were being mobilized in Dallas and Fort Worth areas.

Inside Mission Control, flight controllers hovered in front of their computers, staring at the screens. The wives, husbands and children of the astronauts who had been waiting at the landing strip were gathered together by NASA and taken to separate place.

Columbia was at an altitude of 200,700 feet (60,210 meters) over north-central Texas at 9 a.m. (10 p.m. Saturday in Manila), traveling at 12,500 mph (20,112 kph) when mission control lost contact and tracking data.

NASA, while not saying the shuttle had exploded, broken up or crashed, warned that any debris found in the area should be avoided and could be hazardous.

There were reports of debris seen falling.

In 42 years of human space flight, NASA has never lost a space crew during landing or the ride back to orbit. In 1986, space shuttle Challenger exploded shortly after liftoff.

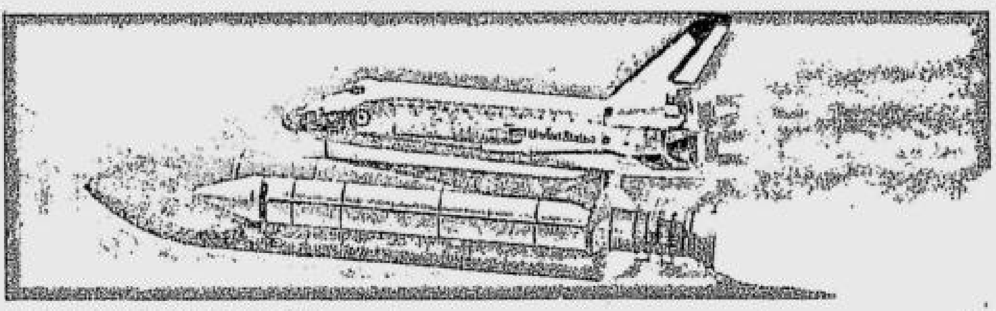
Security had been tight for the 16-day scientific research mission that included the first Israeli astronaut.

Ilan Ramon, a colonel in Israel's air force and former fighter pilot, became the first man from his country to fly in space, and his presence resulted in an increase in security, not only for Columbia's Jan. 16 launch, but also for its landing. Space agency officials feared his presence might make the shuttle more of a terrorist target.

On launch day, a piece of insulating foam on the external fuel tank came off during liftoff and was believed to have struck the left wing of the shuttle.

Leroy Cain, the lead flight director in Mission Control, had assured reporters Friday that engineers had concluded that any damage to the wing was considered minor and posed no safety hazard. *AP*

THE CREW of the ill-fated Columbia shortly before liftoff on Jan. 16. REUTERS


FILE PHOTO of the Columbia AFP

Domestics are teachers . . .

From page A1

Lacambra, Melinda Molina, 26; Neva Lacambra, 26; Josephine de Leon, 31; and Doris Domingo, 34, are among the 100 former OFWs who are now part of the Isabela schools division's teaching force.

Maryfe and Neva Lacambra started teaching in January while Molina, De Leon and Domingo started on Dec. 18. All of them came from Hong Kong where they worked as maids or caregivers.

They said they took advantage of the program to practice their profession and be with their families here.

Maryfe Lacambra's experience in working abroad was not rosy. She left her first employer after enduring five months of verbal abuse.

She found another employer but after a year, she finally decided to return to the country and teach.

"Some employers treat their helpers as dumb and a robot that's why their employees do not stay long with them," she said.

De Leon, however, could be considered lucky as she found a kind employer.

She said her employer respected Filipino educators and treated her as a member of the family.

Grateful for her employer's kindness, De Leon did free tutorial services to her employer's two children. She stayed with them for more than three years.

"They treated me as their sister. Even the children loved me like their mother. They slept in my bedroom and they enjoyed playing with me. They still call me, pleading that I return. However, I have to stay now with my family," De Leon said.

Domingo worked in Hong Kong for five years, doing household chores. *"Nakuha sa tiyaga* (It was sheer patience)," she said.

Molina said she learned about the government's "Balik Turo" program from advertisements in Hong Kong newspapers and from the Philippine consular office.

Molina, like others who took part in the program, will receive P10,000 in basic salary and P1,000 allowance.

This is way below their average P25,000 salary as maids in Hong Kong but they are not complaining.

"It is not the money. This time, I can take care of my child during my spare time. I do not have to work 24 hours daily," Molina said.

The former OFWs said they worked in Hong Kong to give their families a better life.

Through her earnings in Hong Kong, De Leon financed the schooling of two younger siblings. Molina said she spent about P100,000 for the medical bills of her late father while Molina supported the schooling of a younger sister.

Neva Lacambra used her earnings to build a house for her family.

Like other beginners, the new teachers have been experimenting on ways to effectively teach their students.

"They are diligent teachers and we are hoping that their enthusiasm to work for the pupils will remain in their hearts and minds," said Romualdo Bacani, Cauayan North Central School principal.

"They are lucky for landing a job through the government's program. We hope that their lucky streak will help propel the school into one of the best in the province or in the region," he said.

When they were working abroad, the OFWs said they were working almost 12 to 18 hours a day. Now, they have more time to attend to the needs of their families.

"We are getting less now but it seems our standard of living has been the same. We are, in fact, looking forward to a better future," they said.

Benito Tumamao, Isabela schools division superintendent, said 100 former OFWs in the province joined 9,000 elementary and high school teachers and non-teaching personnel in Isabela's 35 towns and two cities.

"These former OFWs will no longer be homesick and they are assured of security of tenure. Unlike their jobs abroad, they are now working permanently," he said.

PDI's Job Market . . .

From page A1

searching for better job opportunities.

"It will now officially be the widest circulated recruitment section in the country," said Donald Lim, INQUIRER's assistant vice president for marketing.

He said the benefits of the new, reader-friendly section are two-fold: it would help job applicants because they will have a variety of quality jobs to choose from and at the same time be a boon to corporations that want to have a higher response rate to their advertisements.

Lim said there are many job applicants living outside Metro Manila and a lot of companies looking for people based there.

Service to PDI readers

Lim said the INQUIRER's Job Market is the first of its kind in the Philippines. Not only does it specifically target those looking for jobs, it also offers them the Sunday People@Work, a special section that offers articles, columns, advice and other features that tackle concerns of the employed and those seeking employment.

"It's a service of the INQUIRER to our readers, specifically the job applicants, that they have a quality recruitment section," Lim said.

The Sunday People@Work reports on the latest research done by the Ateneo Human Resource Center. It also features columns and articles which inspire, stimulate and offer solutions, like Successfully Pinoy, Reflections for the Working Soul, HR Focus, Friends at Work, Postcards from the Corporate Edge, Working Oops, Marketing Brand "You," People@Work Pulse, Your Attitudes and You and Trailblazer of the Week.

Quality job applicants

Lim said companies looking for new recruits don't just go for volume; they also want quality applicants. Thus, Job Market's wider circulation ensures a rise in response rate.

He explained that when companies put out an ad in the INQUIRER, they usually get quality applications, saving time for human resources staff in screening resumés. At the same time, those looking for jobs know that when they respond to an ad in the INQUIRER, they know they are getting into a reputable organization.

The INQUIRER launched Job Market on Oct. 22, 1995. Seven years later, it continues to grow and serve as an intelligent recruitment tool.

Aside from Job Market, the INQUIRER since 1997, has also been holding a quarterly job fair which has become a venue for applicants to meet employers from a large number of companies.

In 1998, the recruitment website www.jobmarketonline.com was also launched. Aside from job listings, it features a database of job-seekers' resumés, which employers can access.

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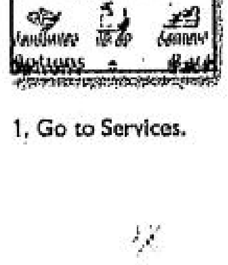
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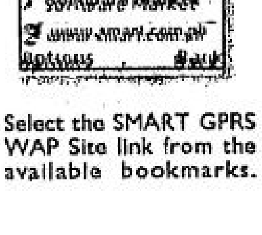
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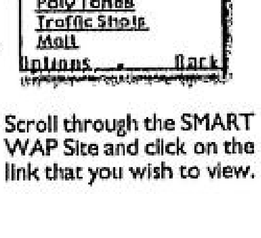
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Sunday SPORTS

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HRABAK, FEIHL SIGNED

Only 9 PBA vets get pay increase

By June Navarro

MAJORITY of the veteran players who managed to hook up among the 10 PBA teams are bound to receive paychecks lower than what they had earned in the past.

But some were able to dodge the shuddering effects of the economic crunch pervading the league. They were lucky enough to secure contracts that will more than tide them over in a couple of years.

Among them, Shell's Mike Hrabak and Alaska's Edward Joseph Feihl came out of the negotiating table wearing the most satisfied faces what with the long-term megabuck deals they recently signed with their respective teams.

The 6-foot-5 Hrabak, who owns a deadly touch from treyland, fetched a three-year, P10.8-million package with the Turbochargers while the 7-foot Feihl inked a P9.3-million deal spread over the same number of years with the Aces.

Equally contented with what they got during the wheeling and dealing in the off-season were Sta. Lucia's Paolo Mendoza, Tony Dela Cruz of Shell and Alaska's Robert Duat.

Mendoza inked a three-year, multi-million pact while Dela Cruz and Duat secured two-year contracts not less than P6.5 million.

Coca-Cola's Ato Morano, Jon Ordonio of Alaska, Red Bull's Anton Villoria and Rensy Bajar of Shell were also granted with a significant raise in their wages but was just enough to justify their performances last season.

So far, these nine cagers were the only ones who escaped from the pay-cut axe out of the 67 expirees and the 30 veteran players assured of showing off their craft when the 2003 PBA season unfurls on Feb. 23.

The likes of Rodney Santos (Purefoods), Boyet Fernandez (Purefoods), Dorian Pena (SMB), Dwight Lago (SMB), Boybits Victoria (SMB), Bal David (Ginebra), Richard Yee (Purefoods), Gherome Ejercito (FedEx) and Junthy Valenzuela (Red Bull) were not as lucky though.

They stand to absorb the debilitating impact of a pay slash somewhere in the vicinity of 20-30 percent based on their previous monthly salary.

Joining them are Elmer Lago (Ginebra), Richard Del Rosario (Alaska), Cris Bolado (Coca-Cola), Estong Ballesteros (Coca-Cola), Alex Crisano (Ginebra), Wilmer Ong (Sta. Lucia), Roger Yap (FedEx), Banjo Calpito (Ginebra) and Mike Mustre (SMB).

Red Bull's Edmund Reyes and sophomore swingman Alvin Castro of Alaska retained their previous monthly salary for one season. Coca-Cola's Jeffrey Cariaso also retained his basic salary but it will diminish by almost 20 percent in the last two years of his three-year contract.

Out of the 67 veteran players whose contracts expired this year, 30 are now guaranteed of seeing action anywhere among the 10 PBA teams.

The 27 players who are hoping to land a team when the season begins are trying to keep themselves in shape by opting to become mere practice players.

Their slots in their previous teams were now filled by the 25 out of the 40 drafted rookies who are guaranteed to see action in the PBA this year.

Pistons hand Celts worst-ever setback; Lakers whip Kings

BOSTON--The Detroit Pistons handed Boston its worst-ever loss in the NBA Friday, destroying the Celtics 118-66.

The previous worst defeat for the Celtics came earlier this season when they were humbled 114-69 by the Washington Wizards.

Richard Hamilton topped the Pistons with 29 points Friday.

Chauncey Billups picked up 24 while Ben Wallace had eight points and 11 rebounds.

Paul Pierce collected 23 points for the Celtics, who shot just 23-of-77 (29.9 percent). Antoine Walker, just back from injury, made only one of his 15 attempts from the floor.

The Celtics trailed by as many as 60 points.

In Sacramento, Kobe Bryant collected 38 points, five rebounds and five assists to guide the Los Angeles Lakers to a 124-113 win over the Kings.

Shaquille O'Neal contributed 36 points, 10 rebounds and six assists for the Lakers.

The Kings, beaten at home for the second game in a row, were spearheaded by Peja Stojakovic, who scored 36 points before fouling out with 1:31 remaining.

In Orlando, Tracy McGrady's 35 points were not enough to prevent the San Antonio Spurs edging the Magic 109-108.

It was NBA scoring leader McGrady's seventh successive 30-point game.

Tim Duncan topped the Spurs with 23 points, including the decisive basket in the closing seconds. David Robinson and Tony Parker also had 20 points apiece, a season-best for Robinson.

Duncan and Robinson, who recently sat out several games with a bad back, added 17 and 11 rebounds respectively.

In Philadelphia, Keith Van Horn racked up 33 points to lead the Sixers to a narrow 104-99 win over Miami, handing the Heat their eighth consecutive road loss.

All-Star starter Allen Iverson added 25 points despite shooting just 8-for-22. Eric Snow also topped 20 for the Sixers, who halted a four-game losing skid.

Eddie Jones paced Miami with 22 points while Caron Butler added 18.

In Toronto, the Raptors notched only their seventh home victory of the season with a 102-90 triumph over the Eastern Conference-leading Indiana Pacers in a game marred by fighting.

Antonio Davis led Toronto with 20 points and 10 rebounds, with All-Star Vince Carter counting 16. Jerome Williams also had 16 points and 10 rebounds.

Brad Miller topped the Pacers, who were missing the suspended Ron Artest, with 20 points. Jermaine O'Neal added 17 points and 13 rebounds.

In East Rutherford, New Jersey, the Nets hardly missed team leader Jason Kidd as they secured a lopsided 89-72 victory over the New Orleans Hornets.

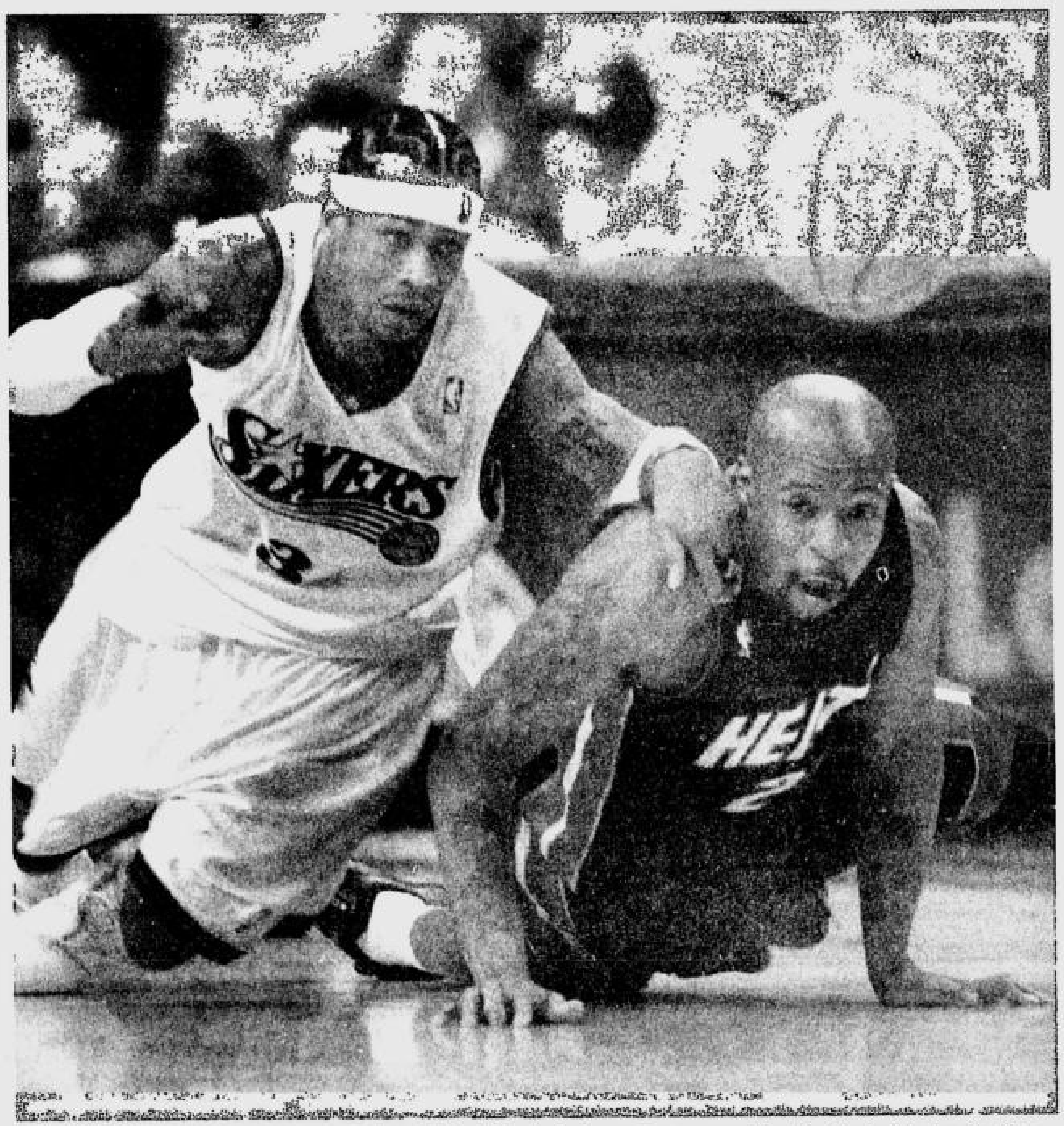
While Kidd was missing with a strained groin, the under-rated Kenyon Martin racked up 23 points and grabbed 12 rebounds. Kerry Kittles added 21 points.

Jamal Mashburn was best of the Hornets, who shot just 33 per cent, with 17 points. The Nets are now 21-2 at home.

In Atlanta, the Hawks received 20 points from Glenn Robinson to post a 96-91 victory and send the Cleveland Cavaliers to their NBA-worst 38th loss of the season.

Jason Terry was next best for Atlanta with 17 points.

Complete results:
Pistons 118, Celtics 66; Spurs 109, Magic 108; 76ers 104, Heat 99; Nets 89, Hornets 72; Hawks 96, Cavaliers 91; Knicks 108, Grizzlies 102; Rockets 121, Timberwolves 101; Jazz 102, Warriors 94; Trail Blazers 107, Bulls 94; Suns 98, Clippers 92; Lakers 124, Kings 113. *Reuters*



PHILADELPHIA 76ers' Allen Iverson (left) and Miami Heat's Anthony Carter scramble after the ball during the first half Friday in Philadelphia. The 76ers won, 104-99. AP

Payton, Kidd joining Skills

NEW YORK--Nine-time All-Star Gary Payton of Seattle and New Jersey guard Jason Kidd will be among those showing off their ability in the inaugural National Basketball Association Skills Challenge.

France's Tony Parker, a 20-year-old guard for San Antonio in just his second NBA season, and Phoenix's Stephon Marbury are the other participants in this first-ever event in Atlanta on Feb. 8, the eve of the NBA All-Star Game.

Trying to add more excitement to its lineup of special events at the all-star event, the NBA is adding the Skills Challenge, featuring four players competing in a timed "obstacle course" that consists of dribbling, passing and shooting.

Payton, in his 13th NBA season, is averaging 20.9 points and a league-high 9.2 assists. *AFP*

Thanks to Allen and Tracy but I prefer to watch the game from bench--Jordan

WASHINGTON--Washington's Michael Jordan says thanks for the offer, but he prefers to watch from the bench at the start of his final National Basketball Association All-Star Game.

Jordan graciously rejected the goodwill gestures from Philadelphia's Allen Iverson and Orlando's Tracy McGrady, the starting Eastern Conference guards as voted by fans for the annual all-star showdown Feb. 9 in Atlanta.

"I like it just the way it is," said Jordan, set to make his final all-star appearance. Jordan has announced he will retire at the season's end. With his 40th birthday coming February 17, this third farewell is likely the last.

"I take it as a compliment but I would rather for them to play and start and let me come off the bench with no side deals." Jordan, who led the Chicago Bulls to six NBA titles in the 1990s, has never been picked as a backup before. Coaches chose the bench lineup after fan balloting determined East and West starters.

McGrady, the NBA's scoring leader, was tops among vote-getters. He and Iverson were praised for the offer by Jordan, who said he likely would have done the same for Julius Erving.

"That shows the type of people they are, what they know about the history of the game and about guys who have paved the way," Jordan said. "I would have done it for Dr. J and I'm pretty sure Dr. J would have done it for somebody else." *AFP*

High school basketball star ruled ineligible

JAMES

CLEVELAND--High school basketball star LeBron James was ruled ineligible to play for the rest of the season because he accepted free clothes.

The decision Friday by the Ohio High School Athletic Association comes four days after James, a senior at St. Vincent-St. Mary, was cleared for accepting a $50,000 Hummer H2 sport utility vehicle as a gift from his mother.

Last Saturday, James was given two retro sports jerseys from a clothing store. The jerseys, honoring former Chicago Bears running back Gale Sayers and former Washington Bullets center Wes Unseld, cost a combined $845.

James' school must forfeit Sunday's game, the association said in a news release.

The 6-foot-8 (2-meter) James is considered the best high school player in the country and is expected to be the top player selected in June's NBA draft.

After reviewing a report about the jerseys, the association said James received them in exchange for posing for pictures to be hung on the store's walls.

The association's rules state that an athlete forfeits amateur status by "capitalizing on athletic fame by receiving money or gifts of monetary value."

James refused to comment about the jerseys Thursday night at the Greater Cleveland Sports Awards; he was honored as the area's top high school athlete for the second straight year. He did allude to "all the controversy that's going on with me" during his acceptance speech. *AP*

'All fame is dangerous'

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

THE ASSOCIATED Press has quoted Vince Carter as saying it would be a slap in the face of fans if he gave up his starting spot to Michael Jordan in the NBA All-Star game on Feb. 9. Carter was No. 3 in votes earned despite playing in only 10 games because of knee problems. Jordan, an All-Star for 13 seasons, was added to the Eastern Conference team as a reserve.

I believe Jordan should be a starter. He has been playing well lately after recovering from a sluggist start. In fact, Jordan not getting voted into the starting lineup was the real slap on all of us who are supposed to understand the game better than anyone else.

Carter could be right: Giving up his post to Jordan might be a slap on the face of those who voted for the Toronto star.

But take this: Those who didn't vote for Jordan ought to be ashamed of themselves. They are nothing but pseudo-experts of the game. Jordan, the NBA's No. 3 all-time scoring leader, is a six-time NBA Finals MVP and a five-time NBA MVP.

Listen, if Allen Iverson and Tracy McGrady could offer their spot to Jordan, why not Carter, too? Or anybody from the Eastern team?

In a show of humility, Jordan declined both offers from Iverson and McGrady.

"Everybody is entitled to their opinion," Carter told AP yesterday. "I think sometimes they just say it without sitting back and thinking, 'OK, why is he making that decision?' There is a reason why, and it's the million-plus people that voted for me."

When asked for his thoughts on the gestures from Iverson and McGrady, Carter, McGrady's cousin, said, "Congratulations to them."

Carter, who has missed 33 games this season, makes no apologies for being in the All-Star game.

"Some of you guys say I shouldn't be there," he said. "That's fine, but I think I owe it to the fans to be out there on that starting lineup, for one, because they voted me in with the amount of games that I played. And then to really say, 'Thanks, but no thanks.' Once again, that's a slap in the face to the fans. I might as well not show up then, in my opinion."

Washington coach Doug Collins has suggested that someone step aside for Jordan. Milwaukee Bucks coach George Karl praised McGrady for offering to give up his spot, then said, "I'm kind of ticked that Vince Carter didn't think of it."

Fame has devoured Carter. He should listen to Thomas Fuller: "All fame is dangerous."

There have been players in the past who have given up starting spots. John Havlicek started in 1978 when Collins stepped aside. Tim Hardaway sat in 1992 so Magic Johnson could start.

Jordan does not begrudge Carter for wanting to start.

"It's a Catch-22," Jordan said. "If he gives up his spot, some fans will be disappointed. Even me accepting Tracy's or Allen's spot would make fans look bad. That's not the way it's meant to be."

I raise a glass to His Airness.

BUHAIN-GO MEETING SET

PSC reiterates support to trackfest

By Marc Anthony Reyes

CHAIR Eric Buhain of the Philippine Sports Commission yesterday reiterated his support to the hosting of the Asian athletics championships slated here in September.

Amid apprehensions that the budget for the event will be affected by the belt-tightening measures planned to be undertaken by the agency, Buhain said he will back up the staging of the 44-nation event.

"I'm not a man who will back out of my commitment," said Buhain who is set to meet Go this week to go into the details of the organization. "It is already a commitment not only by the PSC, but by the whole country as well."

Buhain last year signified his support by releasing the $20,000 hosting bond to the Asian Athletics Association last year in Sri Lanka.

Philippine Amateur Track and Field Association chief Go Teng Kok said the Asian meet organizers will itemize the budget which was originally pegged at P30 million, including the proposed massive rehabilitation of the 70-year-old Rizal Memorial track oval.

The plan was spurred by the assessment of Asian Athletics Association secretary general Maurice Nicholas that the venue is still fit to host the 44-nation event with only minor repairs needed.

Buhain, who said that the PSC will try to cut expenses because of the September Asian championships and the December Vietnam Southeast Asian Games, has remained firm in supporting the trackfest.

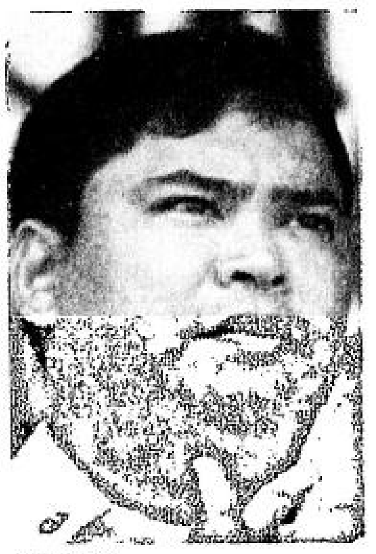
Nevertheless, Buhain said the event could be a dry-run for the country's hosting of the 2005 SEA Games and that the Rizal stadium will also need to be repaired for the SEAG anyway.

The PSC chair also stressed the fact that bringing to the country 1,000 foreign athletes and officials is also an opportunity to prove that the Philippines is a safe place to be in spite of worldwide terrorist threats.

AAA officials will also convene their congress during the event, aside from the programs prepared for the opening and closing ceremonies.

Buhain last week announced that the agency needs additional funds to finance the sports activities this year.

Aside from funding the international exposures of the different national sports associations, the PSC is also set to stage grassroots development projects like the Palarong Pambansa, Batang Pinoy, Luzon-Visayas-Mindanao Games, and the integrated national open championships.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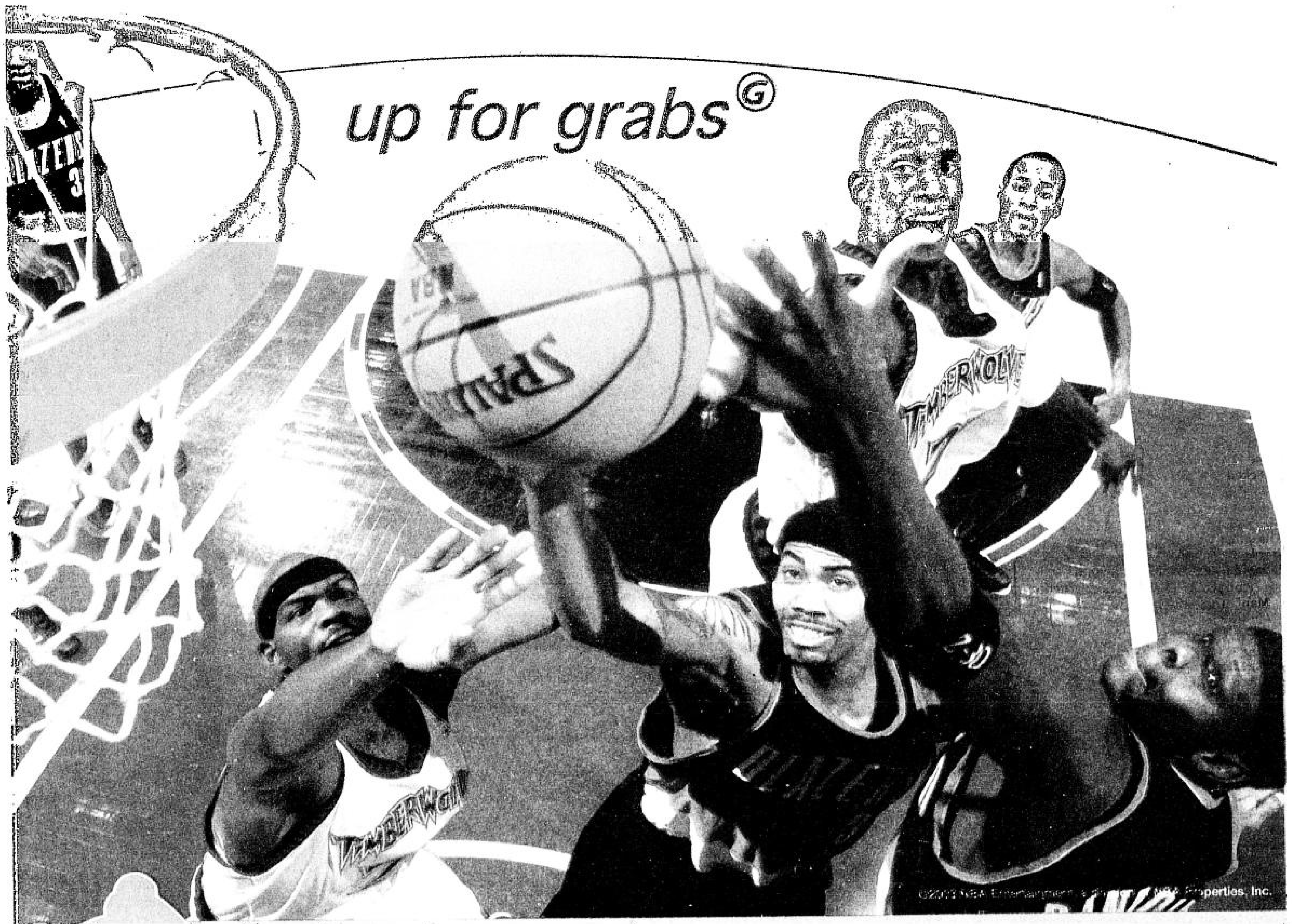

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ONE WINNER

Edwin Villanueva

FOR most *kareristas*, big-time action for the new racing season officially starts when Wind Blown gallops back to business starting, hopefully, with the First Gentleman Silver Cup.

As a six-year-old, Wind Blown could probably compete in fewer races this year before ending his brilliant career.

Aside from the Silver Cup, Wind Blown, according to my *Silip Boy*, is sure to run in two more major races–the Marho Breeders' Cup Classic and the Presidential Gold Cup.

Why those three races?

If the back-to-back Horse of the Year (2001-02) prevails in the Silver Cup and Marho Breeders' Cup Classic this year, he'll achieve a historic "three-peat" in both events.

On the other hand, running in the 2003 PGC and winning it at the same time would erase the blemish of his fifth-place finish in the last staging of the country's most prestigious race.

When Wind Blown returns to the track, Fernando "Dhunoy" Raquel Jr., his regular partner who missed guiding him in the last PGC and Classic Open due to suspension, is expected to be on the irons once more.

"I promised Dhunoy he'll be atop Wind Blown again *pagkatapos ng suspensiyon nya*," said Hermie Esguerra, whose mighty stable emerged the winningest last year.

***

Free Wind is said to be *"doble"* at San Lazaro so expect him to go up as the top choice in this afternoon's Philracom Open Stakes.

The 2002 Presidential Gold Cup champion is facing five tested rivals in the 1,900-meter race and the one picked to rival Free Wind for the P300,000 first prize is the filly Golden Ballet.

Free Wind warmed up for the event last Jan. 18, mauling his C2-D3AB rivals under Pat Dilema, who'll be steering him again this afternoon.

Philracom Chair Jimmy "Action Man" Dilag is inviting the *bayang karerista* to watch this race.

***

E-mail One Winner at evillanueva@inquirer.com.ph or sports"inquirer.com.ph

RACING TIPS

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Race 3--1. Real Gem 2. Yours Truly 3. Run Like D Wind 4. Ikaw Pag-Asa Ko 5. Black Ijhay
Race 4--1. Shining Pyramid 2. Highly Connected 3. Kitty Bang Bang 4. Snowy Market
Race 5--1. Bukambibig 2. Lady Queen 3. Hummingbird 4. Speed Day 5. D Minnows 6. Richie Rich
Race 6--1. Lord of All 2. Catwalk Pia/Cat's Bells 3. Hazmoore 4. Mrs. Rainier
Race 7--1. Imperial Act 2. Always On D Go 3. Miss Monroe 4. Classy Babe 5. El Magnifico
Race 8--1. Free Wind 2. Golden Ballet 3. Hyperbid
Race 9--1. Silver Music 2. Jerold's Dream 3. Romario 4. Mr. Positive 5. Hong Kong Girl
Race 10--1. Material Maker 2. My Preperido 3. Super Sharp 4. Cosanne
Race 11--1. Stout Hearted 2. Rumba 3. Say It's True 4. E-Mail 5. Commanding General 6. Golden Snakehotdog
Race 12--1. Sun and Sea 2. Green Buck 3. Exchange Deal 4. Hello Peter 5. All Powerful
Race 13--1. Beautiful Task 2. Diabolo Don 3. Naughty 4. Diplomatic Bull 5. Spectacular Queen 6. Replica

CEBU COUNTRY CLUB

Southern Ladies: Heidi hottest bet

THE CENTER of attraction in the 40th Southern Ladies Open set for Feb. 5-7 at the Cebu Country Club is Heidi Chua.

ANDRADA

The 26-year-old Chua will gun for her third straight title in Cebu after earlier winning the RP Ladies Open at the Manila Golf Club and the DHL-NGAP Open on Friday at Canlubang.

She will be aiming for a third Southern Ladies Open victory, counting her triumphs in 2000 and 2001 in the 54-hole event organized by the National Golf Association in cooperation with the Cebu Country Club.

Lina de Guzman won it last year at Del Monte in Bukidnon in this oldest ladies event now observing its ruby anniversary.

"Heidi will have her hands full since virtually all the country's top bets, including our former national players, will crowd her for top honors," said Alice Andrada, the NGAP treasurer and NGAP chair of the ladies committee. "I foresee a fierce competition even as our entries in the other divisions will likewise have fun in Cebu."

The event starts with the captain's meeting on Feb. 4 to be followed by the ceremonial tee-off to be performed by PSC chair Eric Buhain, NGAP president Rod Feliciano, Cebu CC president Douglas Luym, Cebu CC Ladies Chapter president Rosebud Sala, Andrada and Dr. Suga Sotto-Yuvienco–winner of the 1982 edition and a pioneer of the Southern Ladies.

The main sponsors are the PSC, Philippine Airlines, Hans Brumann Jeweller, Mariott Hotel, DHL Worldwide Express/WWW Express, Mizuno, WG&A Ferry, Petron, San Miguel Corp., Smart Communications, Gopez Corp., DPH-The Yellow Pages, Nike, Hidden Spring and Perrier Inc., and Mitsubishi Corp.

Those confirming their participation are from from Alabang GC, Wack Wack, Southwoods, Navy, Canlubang, Aguinaldo, Orchard GC, Cebu CC, Bacolod Golf and Country Club, Pueblo de Oro, Negros Occidental GCC and Iligan GC.

Expected to challenge Chua for the title are Canlubang bets Carmellette Villaroman and Lucy Landicho, Southwoods' Lora Roberto and Tracy Locsin, Aileen Rose Yao of Valley and defending champion De Guzman, who was teary-eyed when she won it last year after bucking foot pains on the last day. *ASM*

CHUA gunning for third straight title.

Prizes galore in Alabang's Mango Tee

A BONANZA of prizes await participants of the Mango Tee, one of the forerunners of the member-guest invitationals in the local golf scene, on and off the course when the 19th edition of the event is held on Feb. 6-9 at the Alabang Country Club.

While the Mango Tee committee has loaded up on tournament and hole-in-one prizes, there are just as many interesting prizes during the nightly cocktails including the latest models of cellular phones from major sponsor SMART.

No less than P650,000 worth of appliances and other items will be added to the P300,000 worth of market leading equipment being donated by Taylor Made adidas and the hole-in-one prizes donated by Mitsubishi Motors (Lancer GLS 1600 and Adventure Grand Sport Diesel) and Kart Plaza Manufacturing (Yamaha cart) Makati Skyline and Standard Chartered Bank are also coming in as major sponsors while Fedex, Turf Company, Pepsi Cola and Security Bank-Diners are on the premium holes.

Hole sponsors are Fedex, Nestle, Pepsi, Security Bank/Diners Club, Acro Industrial, Beneficial PNB Life Insurance, Citra Metro Manila Tollways Corp., Cocolife/Direct Link, Directories Phils., Friend of Mango Tee, Gainers Marketing, GG&A Club Shares, Inc., Golforce Inc., Green Cross, Inc., Golfers Clubshares, Inc., Haji Andi Tabusalla, Hyundai Ortigas, Joseph Rice Mill, Maisog Engineering, Natropin Anti-Aging and Rejuvenation Program.

The grand raffle prize is a Sony television 29-inch and 40 other premium items will be given away during the awards night on Sunday, Feb. 9 with the popular Rage band set to stir up a fun-filled evening.

Fistorama features two bouts

"FISTORAMA" today features two exciting bouts in the light-flyweight and bantamweight divisions. Norby Baculpo faces Christopher Corsa at 107 pounds in four rounds while Romeo Buhawi fights Robert Dalisay at 118 pounds in ten rounds. The fights were held recently at the state-of-the-art Joe Cantada Boxing Arena in Taguig, Metro Manila. The popular weekly boxing show is produced by Joe Cantada Sports and spotlights top sportscaster Ed Picson, boxing analyst Quinito Henson and boxing legendary commentator, Taby Tabaniag.

Starting on Feb. 16, Fistorama will be aired in the United States, Australia, Japan and the Middle East through ABS-CBN's The Filipino Channel.

Fistorama, now on its fifth season, is aired every Sunday noon on RPN 9 and is brought to you by Cebu Pacific and Rogin-E.

Korean teener wins at Orchard

KOREAN teenager Kevin Lee opened the year with two major wins at the Orchard Golf and Country Club recently, first clinching the club championship then teaming up with Quino Baterna for the low gross crown in the Mizuno Scramble co-sponsored by Ziebart.

The 16-year-old Lee, a dependent here with a mission to break into the pro ranks soon, became the youngest player to reign as club champion after beating the highly-fancied Louie Garcia, winner of the crown two years ago, in the finals, 4 and 3.

Lee's appetite for winning stretched to the club scramble where he conspired with Baterna for a five-under 67 to run away with the low gross plum.

Tom Clemente, general manager of the Orchard, said that there will be more club events sponsored by companies like the scramble supported by Mizuno and Ziebart during the year.

The other winners in the scramble tourney were Ricardo Nimo-Nilo Ocampo (lowest net), Shigemi Chikama-Lito Carvajal (Division I), Louie Villa-Abrille-Rene Lim (Division II), Andres Superable-Merilyn Superable (Division III).

In the club championship, the Class A crown was won by Yeung Bok Lee who defeated Tommy Owyong, Marvin Dy took Class B at the expense of Aaron Dimabuyu, Roberto Yao beat Leo Espiritu for the Class C title and Herman Reyes prevailed in Class D with Danny Enriquez settling for second.

Urbie Burgos turned back Andy Vasquez for the senior plum and Cynthia Antonio won over Edna Gatmaitan for the ladies title.

The tandem of Mel Malaban-Cesar Seguban actually tied Chikama-Carvajal with a 64 in the top group of the scramble but lost in the countback.

Top riders join Abalos Cup

THE 2003 motorsports season formally kicks off today (Sunday, Feb. 2) with the staging of the second Mayor Benhur Abalos Scooter Cup and Motorcycle Meet at the Mandaluyong City Hall complex in Maysilo Circle.

The country's top scooter riders are expected to display their wares in this prestigious one-day event organized by the E.L. Racing Tech and YRS Modifications and sponsored by Shell Advance Motorcycle Oil.

Ivan Santiago, who emerged as the overall champion in the Shell Advance Super Scooter Series at the Carmona Racing Circuit last year, and Benjo Mendoza head the list of participants vying in the centerpiece expert category.

Santiago also ruled the inaugural staging of the Abalos Cup at the Liberty Center last year.

Among those expected to grace the event are "Rider of the Year" awardee Ernie Leongson, Jolet Jao and Jovie Saulog, who completed a rare grandslam for Shell Advance with their victories in motocross racing last year.

SPORTSTV

Compiled by L. Manguiat

GOLF: Asian PGA - Caltex Singapore Masters, 9 a.m. (r), Star Sports
Heineken Classic Golf 2003, 10 a.m. (r - 9 p.m.), Star Sports
U.S. Open Golf Championship, 5 p.m. (r), ESPN
TENNIS: The Collins Cup, 7 p.m., Star Sports

Archers force playoff for tennis title

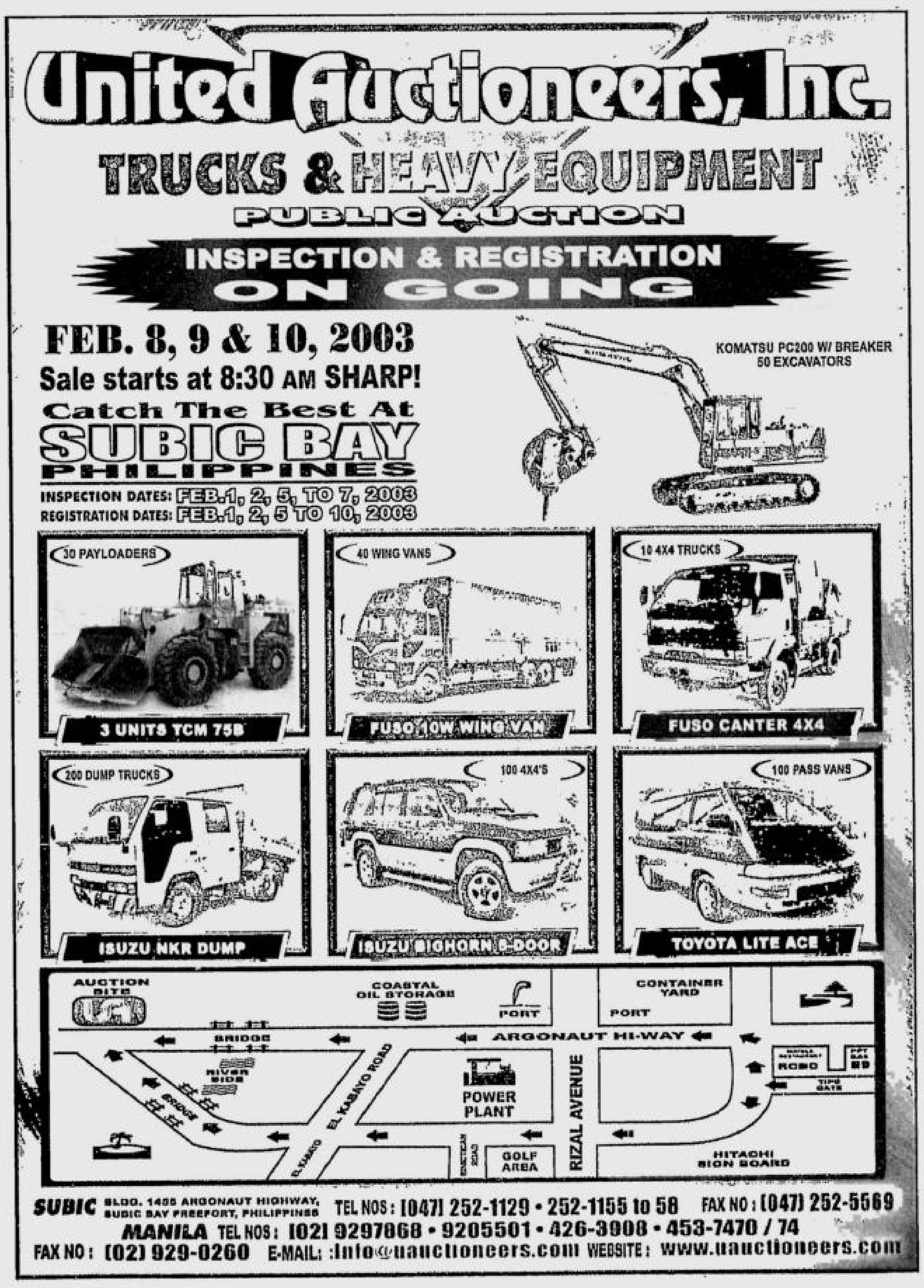
LA SALLE survived defending champion University of Santo Tomas, 2-1, yesterday to forge a rubbermatch for the men's title in the UAAP tennis tournament at the Rizal Sports Center in Pasig City.

The do-or-die match will be played on Feb. 9 at 12 noon.

Nico Faller saved the day for the Archers when he won the deciding second singles over Art Philip Calingasan, 6-1, 6-1.

8th AAP SPORTS AWARDS PRESENTATION
CALTEX HAVOLINE RACING TEAM
2002 CHAMPIONS
CALTEX
Havoline
SVI Subic International Raceway

AWARDING
The Caltex-Havoline racing team was recently honored in the 8th Automobile Association Philippines Awards at the Valle Verde Country Club, Pasig City. They are (from left) Oscar Aguilar SVI, Christian Aguilar and Arpee Manhit.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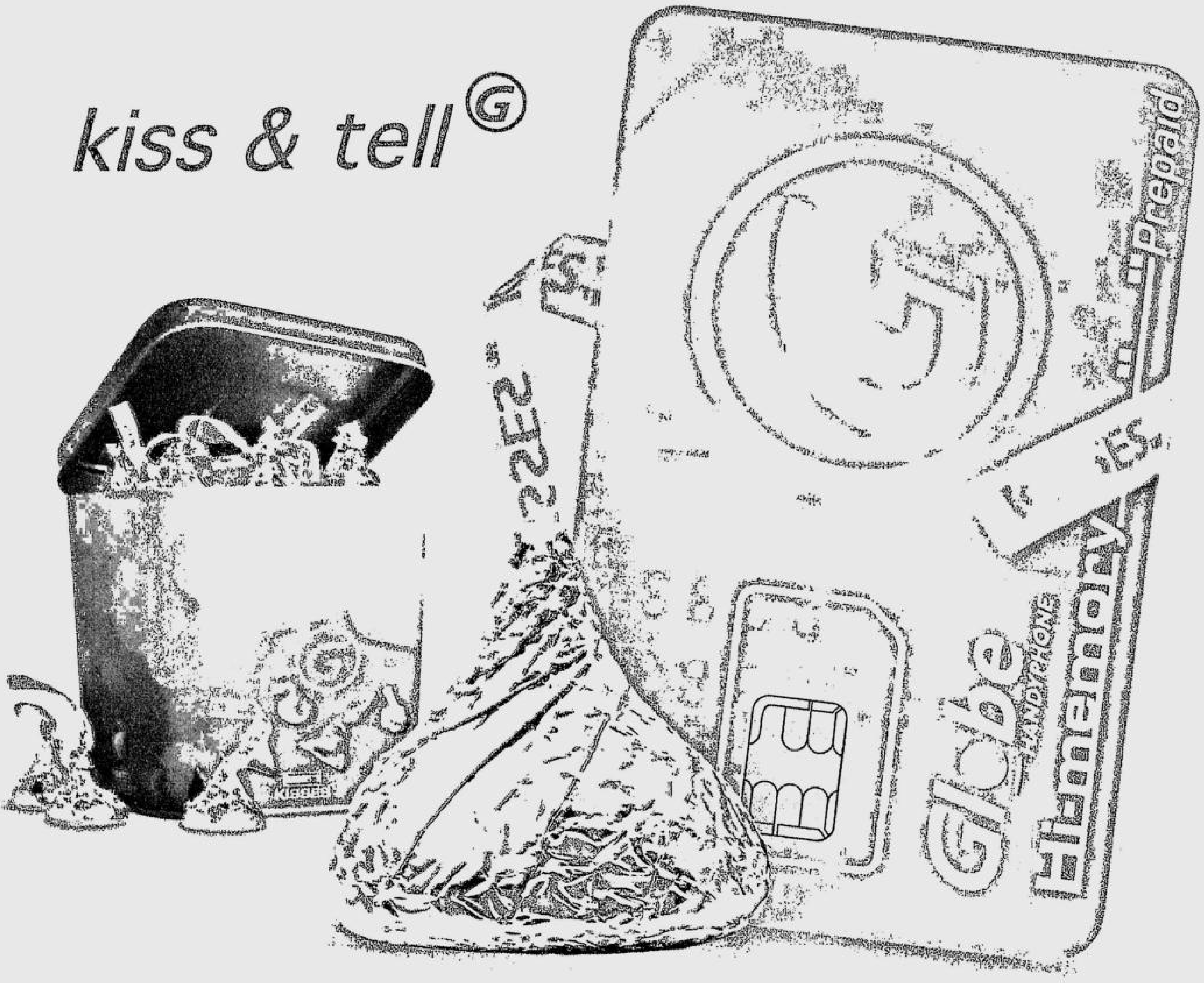

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[illegible]

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METRO
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Editor Louie C. Camino

Joey: Hurt but wishes Kris peace, happiness

By Leah Salterio

HE was hurt but Paranaque mayor Joey Marquez said "we had to give each other peace of mind and I wish her happiness," in reacting to his break-up with Kris Aquino.

The daugher of former Presidnet Cory Aquino is now dating pro-league cager Romel Adducul.

"I'm only human," Marquez told the Inquirer. "I guess I have to face the fact that (the relationship) is now over."

MARQUEZ

Kris admitted last Friday she did go out on a movie date with Aduccul Thursday night, four days after she and Marquez called it quits.

Kris and the towering PBA player watched Steven Spiel-

JOEY/ A24

3 kids drown at La Mesa Dam

THREE children were swept by strong currents and drowned while swimming at the La Mesa Dam complex in Quezon City the other day. Police identified the victims as Gonzalo Sumalinoy, 13, a grade 6 student at the Quirino Elementary School; his brother Gerry, 11; and their playmate Jeeny Rose Baquiran, 9, a grade 2 student of 22 Sitio Lambak, Krus na Ligas. Police said the MWSS had released water from the dam, causing the water level to rise. *A. Papa*

Student killed; 10 held

By Alcuin Papa and Jerome Aning

GANG-RELATED violence continues to escalate in Metro Manila as suspected members of a street gang shot to death a marketing student of the Centro Escolar University in Quezon City on Friday night.

Manila policemen also rounded up 10 San Beda College of Law students belonging to rival fraternities for firing a gun and engaging in a brawl in San Miguel, Manila on Friday.

Central Police District officials said that Geoffrey Jason Roxas, 18, of Villilia Village, Barangay Talipapa, Quezon City, was seen fighting with two young men at around 5:30 p.m. in front of the McDonald's branch on Mindanao Avenue corner Tandang Sora in Quezon City.

According to PO2 Joseph Dinio, one of the youthful suspects challenged the victim to a fistfight when he saw his girlfriend in the company of Roxas.

During the brawl, one of the suspects pulled out a handgun and shot the victim several times.

CEU/ A24

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THE NEW YORK FESTIVALS 2002

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"Taas noo, Pilipino!"
MIKE ENRIQUEZ

"Tagumpay po nating lahat ito, mga kapuso!"
Vicky Morales
VICKY MORALES

SAMA-SAMA TAYONG NAGING
SAKSI
SAMA-SAMA NATING IPAGDIWANG ANG TAGUMPAY.

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Ang Ganda-ganda Niya! Magbabalik na!

MMDA wants traffic men to stand tall

By Leila Salaverria

BEGINNING this month, it may be easier for college graduates to become police officers than to become traffic enforcers.

On Monday, the Metro Manila Development Authority will begin hiring 200 additional traffic enforcers, but this time, the qualifications have been set a little higher.

Aside from being college graduates, males must stand at least 5-foot-7 while females must be at least 5-foot-4 to qualify for the job.

To be a police officer, a woman must stand at least 5-foot-2, while a man must be at least 5-foot-4.

Traffic Operations Center Director Angelito Vergel de Dios said the new set of standards is meant to create a new breed of traffic enforcers.

Most of them would be assigned to mobile patrol, as the MMDA has just acquired 90 new motorcycles, but the new recruits would be trained in other traffic management functions so that they could easily handle other road functions.

Vergel de Dios said the MMDA wants to hire taller traffic enforcers because their height would be an advantage when they direct traffic.

"It looks good to have taller enforcers on the streets," he said.

He also told the INQUIRER that the MMDA would not limit the number of female applicants it would hire. He believes that having more women on Metro Manila's streets would improve traffic flow, Vergel de Dios said.

"Apprehended motorists are less likely to argue with a woman," he said. "Women also tend to be more honest than men."

He also brushed off fears that very few would qualify as traffic enforcers.

"We have a lot of college graduates who have no jobs," he said. "There are also a good number of them who are tall enough."

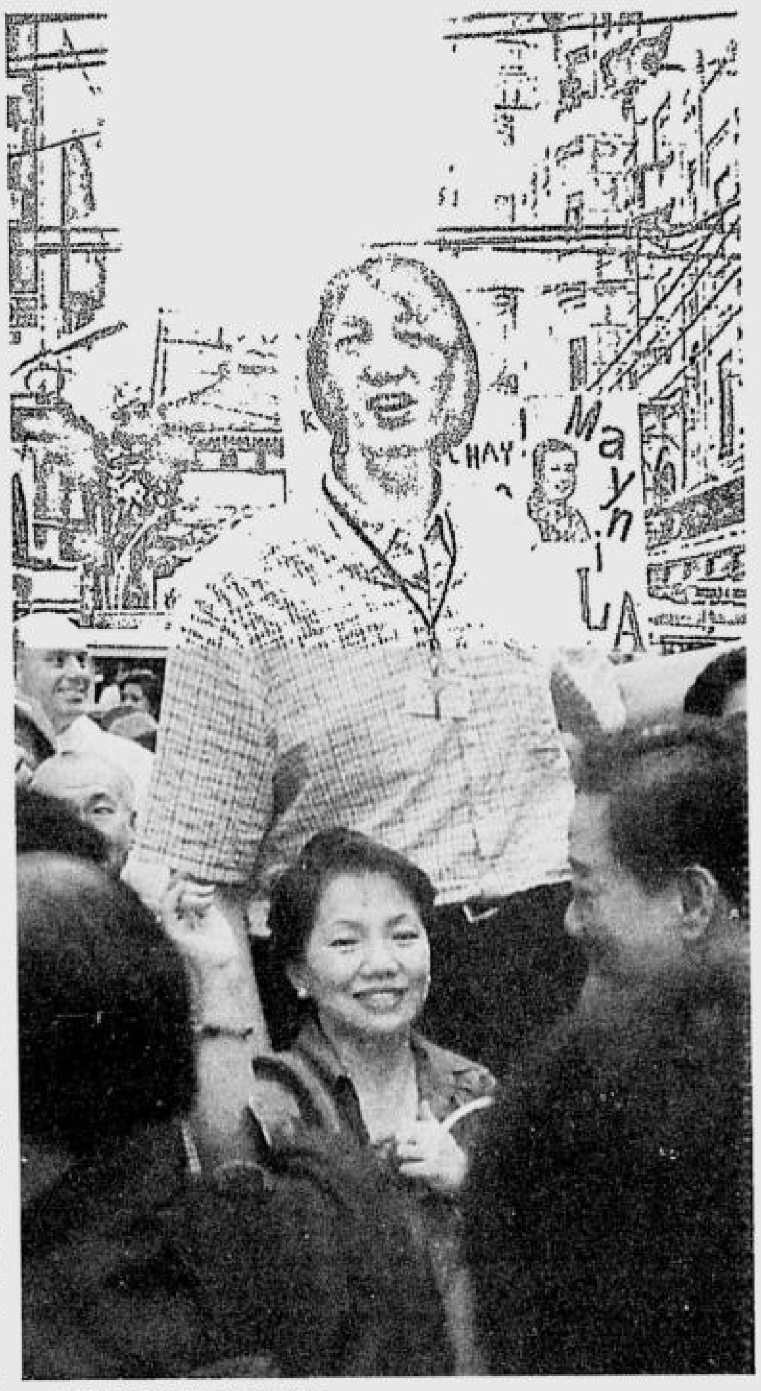
The MMDA has also upped the standards for hiring new members for its rescue teams.

Aside from being skilled in rescue-related skills like first aid, the new recruits must also know how to drive a car and pump boat. This way, the members of the rescue team would be "all-around" operators, said Vergel de Dios.

He added that the new members of the rescue teams would be given higher than standard salaries because they must have a lot of skills.

"Also, in our experience, our rescue team members are pirated by other companies who lure them with higher salaries," he said.

The MMDA aims to hire around 40 personnel for the rescue teams this month.



... BUT NOT THIS TALL

At 8-foot-2, Chinese Wang Chang Chung appears to be wading in a sea of pygmies—Manila residents who thrill to the sight of the unusual.

JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

Atienza eyes Manila Bay watch

By Jerome Aning

MANILA Mayor Lito Atienza is eyeing a new body that will patrol the more than 14,000 hectares of Manila Bay that was recently added to the city's territory.

Atienza said he wants the new watch group—the Bantay Dagat Patrol—to enforce city regulations on fishing, water pollution, aquatic resources and maritime industries.

"We can now manage what is really and legally part of our jurisdiction," the mayor said in a press conference.

On Thursday, the City Council passed a landmark ordinance declaring 14,218.2 hectares of Manila Bay as part of the city's municipal waters.

The ordinance—the first of its kind in the country—increased the capital's area by about one third.

On the new map of the city, the water territory begins on a point north of the Cavite peninsula near the bay's geographic center.

The ordinance was based on the so-called "exclusion clause" of Republic Act 8550, or the Philippine Fisheries Code and RA 7586 or Nipas Law.

The two laws allow local government units to claim as municipal waters all bodies of water not more than 15 kilometers from their coastlines.

The National Mapping and Resource Information Authority, an agency under the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, made a map showing the municipal waters.

Councilor Cita Astals, the ordinance's principal author, said the city government could now stake its claim on all natural resources and marine activities taking place in the city's portion of the bay.

"The city can now manage and regulate the bay and enforce our laws in this additional piece of territory," Astals said in a phone interview.

Astals, who chairs the council's engineering and public works committee, has been pushing for the municipal water ordinance for the past three years.

She personally accompanied mapping experts in cruising the bay and oversaw the sattellite mapping procedures.

The councilor said the ordinance also settled Manila's overlapping claims on Manila Bay with neighboring Pasay City in the south and Navotas in the north.

Astals added that the ordinance would also cover port operations and other maritime industries that fall under Manila's jurisdiction.

She said the city would now be able to monitor and combat fishkills, oil spills, dynamite fishing, and other water-polluting activities in its part of the bay.

Astals said the city should coordinate the implementation of the ordinance with the Philippine Ports Authority, the national police's Maritime Command, DENR, Philippine Navy and the Philippine Coast Guard.

METROBRIEFS

Gunned down in Sampaloc

"I'M NOT a maniac like you!" This was what gunman Lito Villafranca, 41, allegedly said before he shot to death his neighbor Mario Perez, 24, in Sampaloc, Manila on Wednesday. Villafranca was upset because Perez accused him of having an affair with the latter's pregnant mate, said Detective Rodel Lingcong of the Western Police District. Police said Perez, of Buenos Aires Street, Sampaloc, was having a drink with some of his friends in the neighborhood at around 1:30 a.m. when the suspect arrived, shouted invectives at the victim and used a gun to threaten Perez. Lingcong said those present were able to calm down the suspect. But minutes later, witnesses heard gunshots, and then they saw Perez dead on the ground. The suspect managed to escape, Lingcong said. *Philip Tubeza*

Dead from 'La Vida Loca'

"LA VIDA Loca" proved too much for security guard Miguel Jose Jr. of Quiapo, Manila. The victim was belting out pop idol Ricky Martin's hit "Livin' La Vida Loca (Living the Wild Life)" when he collapsed and fell off the stage at the food court of Manila Plaza near the Quiapo Church at around 4:35 p.m. Tuesday, said Detective Alfredo Salazar of the Western Police District. The victim had a heart attack and the fall caused his death, Salazar added. Jose was seen talking to some female students at the food court when he decided to show off by dancing and crooning before a videoke machine. For 10 minutes, the victim sang his heart out, until it gave up on him, causing him to collapse, Salazar said. Worse, Jose fell from the stage and landed on the pavement, three feet below the stage. Jose died at the University of Sto. Tomas Hospital, Salazar said. *Philip Tubeza*

LIVIN'LAVIDA
AGR

Boy accidentally shot in Makati

DON'T drink and hold your gun at the same time. That was the lesson PO3 Danny D. Dacanay learned after he accidentally injured his 16-year-old nephew when he dropped his service firearm during a drinking spree. Dacanay, of the Las Piñas Police, was drinking with his friends at his house in Barangay Pitogo, Makati City on Wednesday night when he dropped his 9-mm service pistol. Dacanay told police that he did not have a tight grip on the gun when it hit the pavement and went off, hitting the young boy in the knee. Investigators said Dacanay claimed to be cleaning his gun while having a drink. They suspect that Dacanay might have been drunk when he dropped the gun. *Leila Salaverria*

Robbery suspect arrested in QC

TWO MEN robbed and held hostage sales manager Ma. Ofelia Ekeijiuba for two hours in Quezon City on Wednesday, police said. Central Police District officials said Leo Caras, 21, of Camarin, Caloocan City, and another man identified only as Jun-Jun, entered the victim's house in Barangay Sauyo, Novaliches, Quezon City, by breaking one of the windows at around 7:45 a.m. While Jun-jun held the victim hostage, Caras left the house with a bank withdrawal slip for P20,000 signed by Ekeijiuba, 39. But the victim managed to alert her neighbors, who called the police. Jun-Jun escaped when he realized that the police were on their way, but before leaving, he took the victim's cellphone and P13,000 in cash. Responding policemen managed to arrest Caras outside a bank in Sta. Cruz, Manila. Caras was still holding onto the the victim's ID card and a bladed weapon when police arrested him outside a bank in Sta. Cruz, Manila. *Alcuin Papa*

Barangay chair took missing park benches

MANILA Mayor Lito Atienza has ordered criminal charges filed against a barangay chair for allegedly stealing two benches from the renovated Plaza Moriones in Tondo six months ago. Barangay 71 Chair Rodrigo Velarde faces charges of theft and destruction of property after police found the benches in the barangay hall on Pavia Street last month. Atienza refused to believe Velarde's claim that he took the benches, but only to repair them. "You knew they were missing, and that I had ordered the police to look for them," the mayor retorted. "Instead of taking care of the park which the city government beautified, you stole from it." One of the missing benches was earlier recovered from Velarde's neighbor. Five more are missing. *Jerome Aning*

Happy impressions of an Australian journalist

By Mathew Murphy

UNLIKE me, my friends were worried.

I was ecstatic when I first received the Myer Fellowship to come over to the Philippines as a journalist for five weeks. However, my friends feared for me. They thought I was going to get bombed, or kidnapped, or at least robbed.

Actually, I had done a lot of research on the Philippines, its media system and its culture, and it was the country I had requested to be sent to.

I was awarded the Fellowship mid-November. But shortly afterwards, the Australian Embassy in the Philippines was closed due to what they called, "a direct and specific threat." Luckily enough the embassy reopened and my trip went ahead.

Despite the apparent threat, my enthusiasm had not been curbed. I have not felt more welcome.

I arrived on Jan. 12. My first week in the Philippines was spent at the Australian Embassy in the public affairs department. I was lucky enough to meet a friendly Filipina named Cathy, a tourism student at the University of Sto. Tomas, who, with her friend Crislyn, made it her mission to keep me thoroughly entertained on weekends with an itinerary full of exciting things to do.

We went to the park where Dr. Jose Rizal was killed, and to Fort Santiago where he was imprisoned. After reading "My Last Farewell" I was left feeling inspired by this extraordinary man who rightfully deserves the title of national hero.

Australia's "heroes" are usually in the field of sports. The only person I can compare him to in our history would be Ned Kelly and that is a disservice to Jose Rizal.

Cathy and Crislyn took me on almost every form of transport—jeepney, FX, MRT—and I did learn the word "bayad po" as everyone passed their money to me to give to the driver.

I had researched the historic Filipino media thoroughly and believed I knew how it worked.

However, it was only once on the job that I really started to learn. On my first day at the Inquirer, I was taken along to an interview. It was about 8 p.m and after the interview was over I was shocked to see dinner had been provided for us. This was incredibly hospitable, but would never happen in Australia.

On my first day at the Senate, I was surprised to see people in the newsroom having siestas and playing chess. They also provide lunch, snacks and coffee for the press and you have people whose sole purpose was to bring you these things. I was impressed and had a few ideas to take back to my own bureau in Canberra.

At the National Bureau of Investigation, I was stunned upon being informed that some 50 people being presented had been charged with illegal gambling. In Australia, you are not allowed to show the faces of those charged with a crime until they are found guilty.

Back at the Inquirer office, things were also a little bit unusual. A nurse comes around every now and then to take your blood pressure. I thought this was a great idea by management. Obviously, when your blood pressure gets too high, they send you home. When I put this idea to one of the editors, he simply laughed at the concept of being sent home.

Being an Australian in the Philippines has had its advantages. I was crossing Taft Avenue with two other journalists from the NBI and we only got halfway across before the traffic was given the signal to proceed. So I thought we would just wait until traffic changes. The traffic controller asked me where I was from and I told him I was an 'Aussie'. I was surprised when he told me he had been to Australia and spent some time in Parramatta. I knew the area well and told him that my family did all our Christmas shopping at Parramatta Mall. He got excited as he also knew the mall and cried out, "I stop traffic for you sir." He promptly jumped in front of the busy traffic so that we could cross. The other journalists looked amazed. It was just another example of the kind nature of Filipino people.

So with only two weeks until I go back to Australia I am already reluctant to say goodbye to the Philippines. Often people focus on the negative aspects such as poverty, corruption and crime. I am not one of those people. I am inspired to see a race of people who, despite all these things, always have a smile on their faces and remain mostly proud about the country they call home. My experience here will be remembered fondly.

Sacked tourism staffers file P1.07-M suit against Barbers

By Jerome Aning

TWELVE Philippine Tourism Authority employees have filed a P1.07 million damage suit against their Malacañang-recognized general manager who sacked them early last month.

In their 11-page complaint, the employees said Robert Dean Barbers terminated and withheld their salaries "without reason, due process in evident bad faith and manifest partiality."

Also named in the suit were deputy general manager for administration Edgar Bocada, human resources manager Buenvenida Laroya and personnel services manager Lourdes Olaes.

In seeking actual, moral and exemplary damages, the employees said the "ill-advised and illegal termination has caused mental anguish, fright, serious anxiety, wounded feelings and sleepless nights."

They intimated that PTA employees like them who are sympathetic to Barbers' predecessor Nixon Kua are being "persecuted."

Kua is contesting his replacement by Barbers. He said his six-year term, which will end in 2006, is fixed.

Barbers insists that those he dismissed were mostly coterminus with Kua's.

The complaining PTA employees said their termination was ordered by "a usurper who was acting in bad fatih and with malice presumably to preempt the courts from acting seasonably" on Kua's petition questioning his relief.

They added that the termination order violated their employee's existing and valid contracts of services and the constitutional and statutory guarantee of the security of tenure which is extended to both those in the career and non-career positions.

CEU student killed; 10 from SBC held

From page A23

Quezon City policemen managed to arrest the two suspects, aged 17 and 18, just as they were making their escape on board a tricycle.

In Manila, policemen arrested Xerxes Garcia, 24, Tyrone Lacson, 23, Lyndon delos Santos, 24, Terence Agustin, 24, Francis Doble, 24, Primo Chuyaco III, 25, Jacob Jabson, 22, Raymond Mendoza, 31, Lito Go Jr., 22 and Giovanni Lopez, 22, for engaging in a rumble on Concepcion Aguila Street, San Miguel, at around 11:30 p.m.

PO2 Richard Caballes said police found a .357-caliber revolver with five live rounds at the crime scene.

PO2 Caballes said Jabson yielded a brown leather holster which was attached to the student's belt.

Barangay 637 Chair Angel Murillo said he and his watchmen were on patrol when they heard a gunshot.

They called the Sta. Mesa police station and accompanied the lawmen to the scene, where they saw the students engaged in a fistfight.

All students, including Jabson, denied owning or firing the gun. The students were all subjected to paraffin tests yesterday.

Joey: Hurt but wishes...

From page A23

berg's "Catch Me If You Can" at Greenbelt 3 Cinemas in Makati City.

Marquez said it was a mutual decision for him and Kris to end their relationship.

"She has her career and I'm not yet annulled," Marquez explained. "She's still young. She has a lot going for her."

He added: "It was very civil, although we don't talk anymore. We did that to give each other peace of mind. Hopefully, we'll also be good friends eventually. I wish her all the happiness."

Marquez's high-profile romance with Kris started in March, after she did an exclusive interview with him for ABS-CBN's "The Buzz," about the breakup of his 12-year marriage with actress Alma Moreno.

Last August, Kris was forced to hie off to Los Angeles after her controversial encounter with Moreno at the Asian Hospital in Muntinlupa.

Kris endured harsh words from Marquez's estranged wife, who called her thick-faced ("ang kapal ng mukha mo") and a husband-grabber ("mang-aagaw").

Moreno also said Kris would remain the other woman all her life ("isa kang kabit at forever kang magiging kabit").

Marquez is still waiting for the decision of his annulment case against Moreno.

Kris said she wants someone who is kindhearted this time. She describes Adducul as God-fearing, kind and prayerful.

She said he was really persistent just to befriend her. But lately, Adducul calls her up everyday and sends her text messages.

However, Kris insisted she is not ready to rush into any serious commitment.

REAL AND REEL. Kristine Hermosa and Jericho Rosales teamup anew in "Ngayong Nandito Ka."

Screen reunion

STAR Cinema's "Forevermore," the first big screen teamup of Kristine Hermosa and Jericho Rosales shown last year, was such a huge hit that movie fans are clamoring for more.

Star Cinema brings back the loveteam from ABS-CBN's popular soap series, "Pangako sa 'Yo," in their screen reunion, "Ngayong Nandito Ka," directed by Jerry Lopez Sineneng.

The characters of Kristine and Jericho in "Ngayong Nandito Ka" comes from opposite sides of the social and economic fence, similar to the roles they portray in "Pangako sa 'Yo." But the young lovers survive all odds and the people around them realize that whatever happens, true love will prevail.

In the film, Kristine and Jericho are Garie and Rocky, who are both band members. She is a backup singer and he is a keyboardist. Their group is scheduled to leave for a gig in Japan, so the young sweethearts are excited. But since Rocky comes from a rich clan, he is made to decide between his family and his love for Garie.

A full-fledged . . .

From page A29

must be good if he's the only white contestant in a competition dominated by black rappers:

But up against the best local rapper, Papa Doc, the leader of the menacing rap group called Free World, and in front of a jeering crowd, he freezes and leaves the stage without a word.

String of clichés

We know Jimmy didn't just lose a rapping contest when he did. In all his life, he probably never will be anything but a string of clichés. He'll be just another one of them white trash living in a trailer park with his kid sister, his alcoholic mom and her deadbeat junkie boyfriend, in the black district of Detroit's 8 Mile Road. Or another working stiff stuck in a factory job where the lunch hour is only 30 minutes short and the workers have to eat while standing around the food truck parked outside. Or another one of those go-nowhere guys who drives around with his friends, getting stoned, shooting paint guns, picking fights and messing around.

His one escape from bitter reality is rap. When he's rapping his problems are forgotten and his limitations are overcome. When he's Rabbit, he can hope and dream. He makes mistakes, he fumbles, he says the wrong things, but when he does what he loves he feels a special grace. No one can write him off. Not even himself.

The theme of escape is popular in films and literature. This is what makes "8 Mile" a full-fledged cinematic phenomenon. The film is a real crowd pleaser, not because it manipulates the audience but because it has heart.

It speaks for those who rail at a life that has made them members of a permanent underclass. In a city that is crumbling, gray and miserable, pockmarked by condemned buildings and houses, covered in graffiti and strewn with garbage (beautifully filmed by cinematographer Rodrigo Prieto, who also did "Amores Perros" and "Frida"), we discover both the anger and the art that breathes life into rap music.

Even we who are not aficionados understand the pain, confusion, frustration and exhilaration behind the formerly senseless rhymes.

Satiric ingredients

Hanson's direction is sharp and plays the satiric ingredients, as well as the more poignant qualities, to maximum effect.

What makes "8 Mile" special is that it concentrates on characters, not rap. It would be disingenuous to say that the climactic and redeeming rap battle is unimportant—after all we never stop thinking about it the moment Jimmy left The Shelter a loser—but that is not what keeps us pegged.

There are only two rap battles, one at the beginning and another at the end. In between, every screen moment is used to develop Jimmy as a person. He is not the traditional hero material. He says the F word a lot and he dismisses his pregnant girlfriend by leaving her his car. Nevertheless, there's something likeable about the guy, in the gentle caring way he treats his kid sister or the way he looks after a dimwitted friend and defends his gay co-worker.

Eminem's performance is both realistically cocky and vulnerable. He makes his alter ego, Jimmy, an unforgettable character you'd want to follow everywhere. But the film is peopled with an equally likeable and engaging supporting cast of actors who handle their characters with sensitive emotional shadings.

Those looking for the ultimate "feel-good" movie might be disappointed that Jimmy doesn't get discovered and offered a rich multi-million recording contract in the end. He doesn't even get the girl.

In real life, things are not as easy. In real life, the more transcendent moments are when one regains self-respect and the respect of others even after so many failures; and when one can dream again amidst lost opportunities and regrets.

When Jimmy walks away from The Shelter as Rabbit, we are able to share that kind of moment we all hope to experience at least once in our lives.

Not a bad deal for just one film.

Warped protagonist

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

ROBIN Williams goes out on a thespic limb in his current film, "One Hour Photo." Instead of cracking us up for the umpteenth time with his zany physical comedy, he slowly draws us into the sullen, lonely and ultimately violent psyche of a nondescript photo shop employee who is so bland that he appears to blend with the walls of the supermarket where he works.

He does his work well, so his bosses put up with his strangely opaque appearance and robot-like behavior. Little by little, however, he creates a fantasy in his mind about belonging to the family of one of his regular customers, and when this weird scenario bleeds into reality, he is eventually dismissed.

With so much free time on his hands, he stalks "his" family and reacts violently when he discovers that the man of the house is cheating on his lovely, wonderful wife, whom Williams' character totally adores.

He's also outraged that the couple's young son, on whom he dotes, is likely to be negatively affected by his dad's extramarital affairs. So, William's emotionally-warped and psychologically disturbed character takes it upon himself to put a stop to the erotic fling by terrorizing the lovers into abject contrition.

The film works fairly well as a psychological study of the effects of utter loneliness and Williams' characterization is admirably subtle in its pointillist construction.

However, not enough background information is provided to help us understand why the movie's warped protagonist has been reduced to such a psychological cypher and the plotting is too slight to generate sufficient steam and involvement.

This is an interesting detour and change of pace for Williams, but we trust that he'll soon go back to what he's best at.

Feedback

FROM **Teodoro M. Reynoso** of Bulacan, Bulacan: "The juggernaut is on. Not content with throwing the proverbial kitchen sink at ABS-CBN, GMA seems willing to cast even the toilet bowl in a determined bid to finally dislodge the former from its top perch.

"'Eat Bulaga' hosts, former ABS talents all, have been taking potshots at their noontime counterpart show and the Lopez media outfit as a whole, the intensity show of the verbal jabs getting nastier by the day, prompting my kids to start asking questions.

"What can I tell them? We've got more serious political and socio-economic problems that they need to know and understand than such petty matters...

"Some GMA broadcast personalities also take occasional jabs at the rival network. I could take it if their gossip personalities were the ones dishing out the 'goods' against ABS, but hearing nasty remarks from supposedly more sober and objective news and public affairs personalities smacks of irresponsibility and recklessness." (*To be concluded*).

Valentine show

BOYZ II Men will perform live at The Fort's Open Field at 8:30 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 14. During the Valentine's Day show, the six-time Grammy winners will perform their hit songs like "End of the Road," "One Sweet Day," "Four Seasons Of Loneliness," "A Song for Mama" and "The Color of Love." Call 911-5555.

'God of Gamblers'

CHOW Yun Fat stars in the "God of Gamblers" film series that is being shown on Star Mandarin Movies this month:

Feb. 3 at 9 p.m., "God of Gamblers Returns" has the protagonist retiring to get married, but he is forced to return and defeat his challenger, who has murdered his wife.

Feb. 5 at 11:20 p.m., "God of Gamblers." He is caught in a trap and suffer from amnesia, but he's helped by a young hoodlum played by **Andy Lai.**

Feb. 9 at 9 p.m., "God of Gamblers 3—Back to Shanghai." **Stephen Chow** is the "Saint of Gamblers" and stars in this zany spoof of the original film.

'About Asia'

AT 8 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 2, the National Geographic Channel telecasts a program about Thai boxing, "About Asia: A Fighting Chance."

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Feb 08: (4pm) ROBINSON'S STA. ROSA - *Jamie Rivera*
Feb 09: (4pm) EVER COMMONWEALTH - *Dingdong Avanzado*
(4pm) ROBINSON'S IMUS - *Jamie Rivera*
(4pm) AYALA CEBU - *Angela Velez -Smokey Manaloto*
Feb 14: (2pm) SM MEGAMALL - *Patrick Garcia - Jodie Santa Maria*
(2pm) SM-NORTH - *"Sa Dulo Ng Walang Hanggan" Cast*
(2pm) SM FAIRVIEW - *"Bituin" Cast*
(2pm) SM BICUTAN - *"Kay Tagal Kang Hinintay" Cast*
(6pm) SM MEGASTRIP- *The Hunks*
Feb 15: (4pm) EVER ORTIGAS - *Jericho Rosales - Kristine Hermosa*
(4pm) ALIMALL - *April Boy*
(4pm) ROBINSON's METRO EAST - *Patrick Garcia- Jodie Sta. Maria*
Feb 16: (4pm) SM NORTH EDSA - *Dingdong Avanzado*
(4pm) EVER COMMONWEALTH - *April Boy*
(4pm) SM SOUTHMALL - *"Berks"*
Feb 21: (4pm) ROBINSON's GALLERIA - *Jericho Rosales - Kristine Hermosa*
Feb 22: (4pm) SM MANILA - *April Boy*
(4pm) ROBINSON's GALLERIA - *Dingdong Avanzado*
Feb 23: (4pm) SM CENTERPOINT - *April Boy*
(4pm) SM NORTH EDSA - *"Berks"*
(4pm) STA. LUCIA EAST - *Jericho Rosales - Kristine Hermosa*
(4pm) AYALA CEBU - *Stagecrew*

(Tuloy lang po ang tutok sa ABS-CBN para sa mga tour schedules.)

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Ray-An is back but not to revive show biz career

By Marinel R. Cruz

BEFORE he found inner peace through his new vocation, singer and evangelist Ray-An Fuentes said he led an empty life because it was centered on the pursuit of the approval, not of God, but of men.

Ray-An had his humble beginnings singing with music groups like the Fourth Congregation, New Minstrels and the Circus Band in the '70s. He also busied himself as lead dancer of then top-rating late-night show "Penthouse 7" on GMA 7, and later as host of "Dance: 10" on RPN 9.

Ray-An reaped citations from many award-giving bodies as Thillie Moreno's singing partner and lead performer of hit musicals like "Rama Hari," "Jesus Christ Superstar," "Evita" and "Cats."

Old and gray

"But all these accomplishments left me empty, alone and insecure," Ray-An told the INQUIRER.

That was why Ray-An, for a time, said he sought affection from relationships with other women.

"I told myself, I'm still young. I'll just deal with my salvation when I'm old and gray."

After teaming up with Thillie for two years, Ray-An decided to pursue a solo singing career in 1981. His first solo gig was the musical "Rama Hari," where he played Ravana. Basil Valdez was among his costars.

Through the musical, Ray-An heard the gospel from a group of dancers at the Cultural Center of the Philippines (CCP). Yet, he did not really pay much attention and carried on with his sinful ways, until he consulted a fortune-teller who predicted the breakup of his marriage with wife Sylvia. The couple has three children—Mickey, Boogie and Dani.

It was in 1986, after the Edsa Revolt that left the country's economy crumbling, when Ray-An first decided to pursue a career abroad. He said he had no money left after squandering all his earnings into wild living, but he was willing to try his luck in the United States.

He consulted a fortune-teller to make sure he made the right decision. But the fortune-teller's prediction almost crushed his heart.

Separation

"I see separation from loved ones and flight to foreign land," the fortune teller told Ray-An. "You will be rich but you will never see your family again."

He said the fortune-teller's last words made him realize how he deeply loves his wife and kids.

"I could never endure living away from them," Ray-An shared. "I cried really hard that night. I know I had been unfair to my wife and children. I asked forgiveness from the Lord and didn't go to the States anymore."

The encounter with the fortune-teller prompted Ray-An to change his ways. He became hungry for God's words.

"I felt that He was giving me a brand new start," said Ray-An. "I attended every Bible study that I know of."

After the incident, he continued his work as a performer despite the slump in the economy.

"Performing was the only thing I know I'm good at," Ray-An said. "I didn't get to finish school because I started show biz early."

Ray-An's father left them when he was only six years old. He said he had to rely on his talents to make it on his own.

Ray-An knew that God wanted him to use his talent to share His words to others. It took him two years to acknowledge his new calling.

In 1998, in a Valentine show at Westin Philippine Plaza Hotel, Ray-An bid farewell to show business.

"I quit at the peak of my career, without any fanfare," he shared.

After he bowed out from show business, Ray-An gave all his time and effort to preaching in his local church, Bread From Heaven. His work gave him the opportunity to travel to the US, Canada, Europe and Southeast Asia.

It has been five years since Ray-An and his family migrated to Vancouver in Canada, where he is now the director of worship of the Global Community Church.

"God told me to just pack up and leave," said Ray-An.

He said the hardest part of leaving his native country was forcing his family to blend in to a different culture. "I've seen how the Lord took care of me and my family in a land that was so foreign to us."

Special minister

He said he now considers himself not just a performer but also God's special minister.

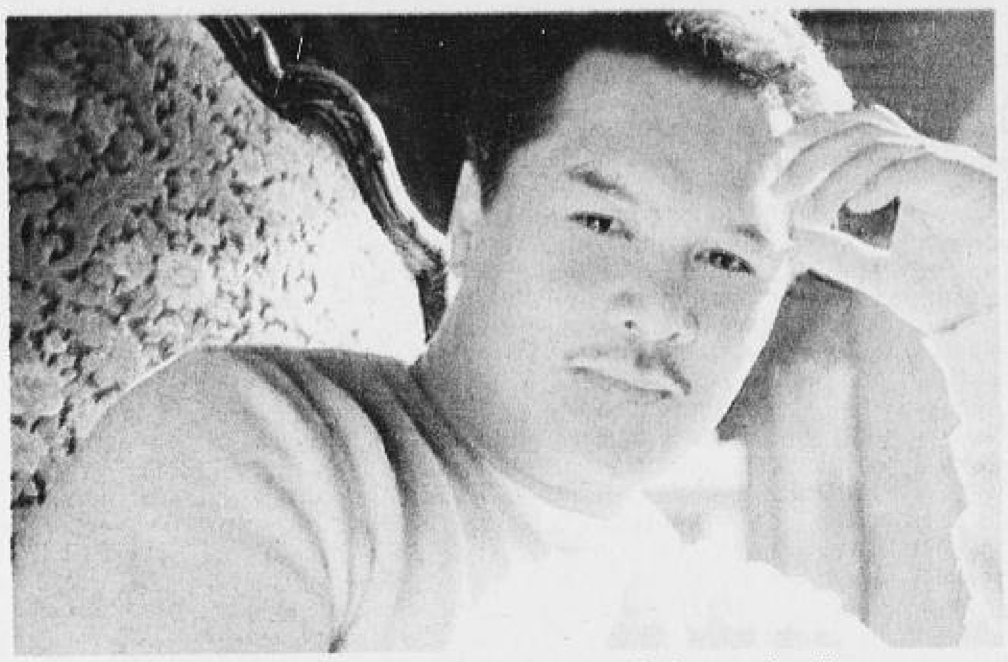
"A performer is after the applause while a minister like me shares the gospel," Ray-An said. "I no longer wish for the applause and the approval of people. I now prefer altar calls to curtain calls."

Ray-An recently flew in from Canada for a month-long visit. Yet, he is quick to point out that he is not here to revive his show biz career but to record his long-awaited gospel album.

"A lot of people have been asking me for a copy of my songs, especially in my shows abroad," explained Ray-An.

To be included in his album are the songs he rendered in some of his concerts abroad, like "Your Presence," "Thank You," "Teach Me Your Ways" and new ones like "When God Ran," "His Strength is Perfect" and his own version of "Psalms 23."

The song "Thank You" tells of the pain Ray-An experienced the first time he was hospitalized.



OUT OF SHOW BIZ. Ray-An Fuentes now prefers altars calls than curtain calls.

He is set to record much-awaited gospel album with original songs

"I simply wrote the song to thank God for everything He has given me," Ray-an shared. "I believed that was the best thing to do instead of wallowing in pain."

Answered prayer

Ray-An said he had always wanted to write a song with lyrics that were lifted from from the Bible. When he prayed for it, he said "Psalms 23" was God's answer to his prayer.

"Teach Me Your Ways" was written during Ray-An's most recent trip to his hometown in Cebu to visit a pastor-friend.

"The church where my friend was in-charge of had many problems," Ray-An explained. "I went there to assist him. The song serves as my plea to God to help us share His words to the locals."

Compositions from other artists such as Arnel de Pano ("Itatawid Kita"), Junjee Marcelo ("Tayo Na, Tayo Na") and Gary Valenciano ("Messiah") will also be incorporated in Ray-An's album.

ninja master ©

Taking notice of Sandra Bullock

DOING A JIM CARREY. Sandra Bullock wants to do comedy, yet not be typecast in the romantic-comedy genre.

By Alexis L. Loinaz
Contributor

WHEN Sandra Bullock took the wheel of a runaway bus with a bomb on it, little did she know it would rev up a career stalled by one too many roles in little seen TV shows and second-rate movies.

Since "Speed" was released in 1994, Bullock's films have rung up over $1.6 billion worldwide ($1.8 billion if you count her vocal turn in the animated film "Prince of Egypt").

Yet for every smash ("Miss Congeniality"), there are the clunkers ("28 Days," "In Love and War"), and the box-office figures send a clear message that audiences want their Sandra leaving them in stitches, not in sad tears.

Bullock hopes to do just that in her new film "Two Weeks Notice," a comedy about a feisty lawyer who falls for the smarmy businessman she works for. The movie re-teams the actress with her long-time collaborator, Marc Lawrence, who penned "Forces of Nature" and "Miss Congeniality."

This time, Lawrence is on board as both writer and director, and Bullock does double duty as producer.

The film also pits her against a new leading man, whom critics say complements her nicely: Hugh Grant. Could there be the next Tom Hanks-Meg Ryan romantic tag team?

Bullock sat down with this writer in New York to chat about everything, from the bruises she endures from her slapstick antics to the potshots she takes at the tabloids (which have relentlessly tracked her fictional romance with Grant).

Here are five things The Inquirer found out.

What Sandra Bullock really wants to do is produce.

Bullock could readily swap her Screen Actor's Guild gold-membership card with a Producer's Guild of America frequent-flyer one.

The actress, who started her own production company, Fortis Films, seven years ago, has produced five of her own movies: "Hope Floats," "Gun Shy," "Miss Congeniality," "Murder By Numbers" and now "Two Weeks Notice." She's not about to end that list there.

She takes joy from being behind the camera, from the production end

"I love it," she says of producing. "I get more joy sometimes from being behind the camera, from the production end. It's the same ride, the same excitement, the same ego trip as being in front of it without worrying about how am I being perceived, how is my behavior going to hurt or help the film."

Far from being the sort of vanity production company that other actresses put up to increase their clout, Fortis Films actually has a successful track record. All together, the films that Bullock has both produced and starred in have grossed over $408 million worldwide.

Fortis Films is currently producing the ABC sitcom "George Lopez," which stars the popular stand-up comedian.

Hang up that gown and kick off those heels: Bullock isn't wearing that "Miss Congeniality" sash again—at least for now.

In 2000, Bullock won the box-office pageant when "Miss Congeniality" ranked as one of the top-grossing comedies of that year, sparking the inevitable talk of a sequel. So far, it has remained just that: talk.

"Unless we can top the first one, there's no sense of doing it again," Bullock says. "But if you can do something that way again and do [it] as well as the first one, then do it."

Lawrence, who wrote "Miss Congeniality," says that while there are no definite plans for a sequel, he does have a couple of ideas percolating in his head. He is, however, understandably tight-lipped.

"I don't think we'll go back to doing a beauty pageant," he says. "First of all, I think we definitely got as much as we could out of that, and we did it fairly well. And I don't think I have many more jokes."

While Lawrence admits that he hasn't written a word for a sequel, he has pitched some ideas to Bullock.

"Sandy and I both didn't want to do it unless we thought it had a reasonable chance of being good," he says. "I will try to take a pass at the script, and then if she's happy, we would take a shot at it."

Don't mention the "RC" word in front of her: romantic comedy.

Although Bullock is known for headlining a string of hit comedies—many of which involved some form of a romantic storyline—she bristles when one calls them romantic comedies.

When the words "romantic comedy" pop up in a question, Bullock cuts in: "Here's what I'm curious about: Which movies of mine do you think are romantic comedies?"

Bullock is visibly irked and adds, "This is the problem I have here and let's get it cleared up. When women do films that are comedic, and there happens to be a guy involved, why can't that just be a comedy?"

Bullock then mentions Jim Carrey, whose films are widely dubbed as comedies even if there's a love interest involved. "But when women do it, it's considered a romantic comedy," she notes. "I can't figure that out. I did 'Miss Congeniality' because I wanted to do what Jim Carrey gets to do. I think that's what I want to change for women: being able to do comedy and it not be categorized as romantic comedy."

Have those ice packs ready: Physical comedy ain't no joke.

She's stumbled down staircases, tripped on tarmacs and gotten into catfights. Hey, nobody said physical comedy was easy, and Bullock has the marks to prove it.

"I have a lot of bruised legs," Bullock says—evidence of the many on-set mishaps she's had while trying to get that comedic timing just right.

"You have to time it so if you have a sexy-dress scene... you don't get hurt. But I think I do it so often that I plan out how I'm gonna fall and how far I can go. And Hugh would help me out on a lot."

At this point in the interview, Grant walks into the room carrying a plate piled with fruits and flashes Bullock a sly grin upon hearing his name.

"I helped you in so many ways," he teases. "Where would you be without me? Actually, no career!"

Bullock says comedic team-ups are a hit-or-miss deal, and she's glad to have had the chance to work with Grant, even with all the physical comedy involved.

"If you don't have chemistry or are not funny, you are completely screwed," she says. "Hugh's a great public figure in the sense that he's mischievous, he's pervy, he's brilliantly smart. He makes me feel really comfortable to do anything that I want to do."

Please send a postcard to Bullock and Grant when they've finally had that rumored baby.

The couple created a stir last year when they attended the Academy Awards together. True to the Hollywood rumor mill, tongues wagged that the two were carrying on a torrid affair replete with nasty squabbles and, yes, a baby Bullock on the way.

Bullock jokes that she was peeved, but not at the rumors.

"I was a little upset that we weren't having a baby," Bullock cracks. "My favorite was this tabloid which I kept posting up on Hugh's wall."

She takes the gossip in jest, playing along with the press and, at times, even taking them for a loop.

"In England, we're apparently still very hot and heavy, right?" she teases. "Here, we're fighting like cats and dogs. In Australia, there were pregnancy rumors."

Grant, meanwhile, maintains: "These things just happen. They're completely out of one's control. Deny it and it sounds like it's true. That's just how the business is."

Email the author at alexisloinaz@yahoo.com

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Gelli and Regine bury the hatchet

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Leah Salterio

IN THE mid-'90s, when the love triangle of **Regine Velasquez, Ariel Rivera** and **Gelli de Belen** was the talk of the town, Regine and Gelli would never see each other on the eye.

They were rarely seen together in the same venue, except when Regine and Ariel had to do a concert tour abroad and Gelli insisted to go with the group.

Regine and Gelli also never agreed to grace a TV program at the same time. Apparently, they were still very bitter then about what happened and they were not ready to talk about that sensitive issue in their lives.

Even Gelli's older sister, **Janice**, once disclosed that she couldn't even keep Regine's CD in the car, since it would only antagonize Gelli.

Regine came into the romance of Ariel and Gelli and was tagged as an "interloper," when she ended up as the new girlfriend of Ariel. Gelli was left in the cold.

After several months, however, Ariel returned to Gelli's arms and eventually married her. Regine admitted she was "dumped."

Ariel and Gelli now have two sons—**Joaqui** and **Julio.**

Today, several years after that controversial episode in their lives, Regine and Gelli have decided to bury the hatchet. They have agreed to come face to face with each other as Gelli finally sits down with Regine for a one-on-one interview in a special episode of "Sis," 10 a.m. tomorrow, Monday, on GMA 7. The two are finally mending the gap inflicted by a bitter exchange of words and years of non-communication.

During the taping of the exclusive interview, a network insider said there were a few excruciatingly "queasy" moments between Regine and Gelli. It was understandable. That was their first encounter after a long time and after an unpleasant episode in their lives which they would now rather forget.

Will it mean closure for Regine and Gelli at last?

Regine will not only promote her upcoming Valentine concert (with **Michel Legrand** at the PICC on Feb. 14 and 15) in the TV program of her former boyfriend's wife. Regine will also relive those tumultuous times with Gelli and prove that the pain is no longer there.

Naturally, it is expected that the two will veer away from the topic because the sight of each other or even the mere mention of each other's name would stir memories of their love triangle.

But the erstwhile "rivals" for the love of one man will show the power of reconciliation on "Sis" tomorrow.

The interview is meant to boost the viewership of "Sis," which will be up against the new daily morning show of Tessie Tomas on ABS-CBN that will premiere tomorrow.

Anti-pornography

BOY Blue Filomeno, spokesperson of the Philippine Alliance Against Pornography (45 Mahogany St., San Jose del Monte City, Bulacan), reacted to my column about **Patricia Javier** last Friday (Jan. 31, 2003).

I wrote that in Patricia's forthcoming one-woman show, "Too Hot To Handle," on Feb. 12 at the Folk Arts Theater, the sexy star will do a shower scene in a waterfall especially constructed onstage, undress before the audience and figure in a passionate bed scene with a hunk.

"We are deeply shocked and alarmed about Patricia's upcoming concert. If the scenario you mentioned will actually be done by Patricia onstage, then we are going to the dogs," wrote Filomeno.

He added that their alliance will not take Patricia's concert sitting down. They have written the office of Manila Mayor **Lito Atienza** to take appropriate action on the matter.

"We are deeply saddened because actresses like Patricia, in their deep desire to gain fame and glory, will exhibit offensive and scandalous acts which are against the morals of our society and laws of the land.

"If Patricia really wanted to gain stardom as a singer, there is no need for her to disrobe onstage. Decency has a place in the entertainment industry.

"If stray dogs are strictly taboo in Manila, a concert like this should be banned completely. The public should not waste a centavo watching a concert that caters to the flesh."

Meanwhile, Patricia pointed out that while she will really do a shower scene onstage, she will not be seen virtually naked. The "undressing" portion will be shown only through silhouette and the bed scene will be anything but obscene.

ERSTWHILE "RIVALS." Regine Velasquez (left) and Gelli de Belen.

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LONG-TIME PARTNERS. (From left) Alen Alban, brand manager for Splash Styling Aids; Elaine Romero, brand manager for Kolours Premium Coloring Creme; Evelyn Alvaran-Cruz, Hair Asia publisher; and Jeanne Tanos, category product manager make initial preparations for the upcoming 12th National Open Championship for Hairstyling and Makeup Competition.

Hairdressers to gather for national hairstyling and makeup contest

By Margaux Ortiz

MARCH 10 marks a very big day for professional hairdressers and hairstyle aficionados nationwide.

Hair Asia, together with Splash Styling Aids and Kolours Premium Coloring Creme, is sponsoring the 12th National Open Championship for Hairstyling and Makeup Competition at the World Trade Center.

"It's going to be a big event and will be attended by thousands of professional hairdressers from different parts of the country," said Hair Asia publisher Evelyn Alvaran-Cruz at the contract-signing event with Splash and Kolours at Shangri-La's Edsa Plaza Hotel on Jan. 24.

The biannual competition serves as a venue for Filipino hairdressers to discover and hone their potentials in hairstyling and makeup.

However, Cruz pointed out that even the non-professionals can attend the event. She added that aside from the competition, there will also be a cosmetic trade fair.

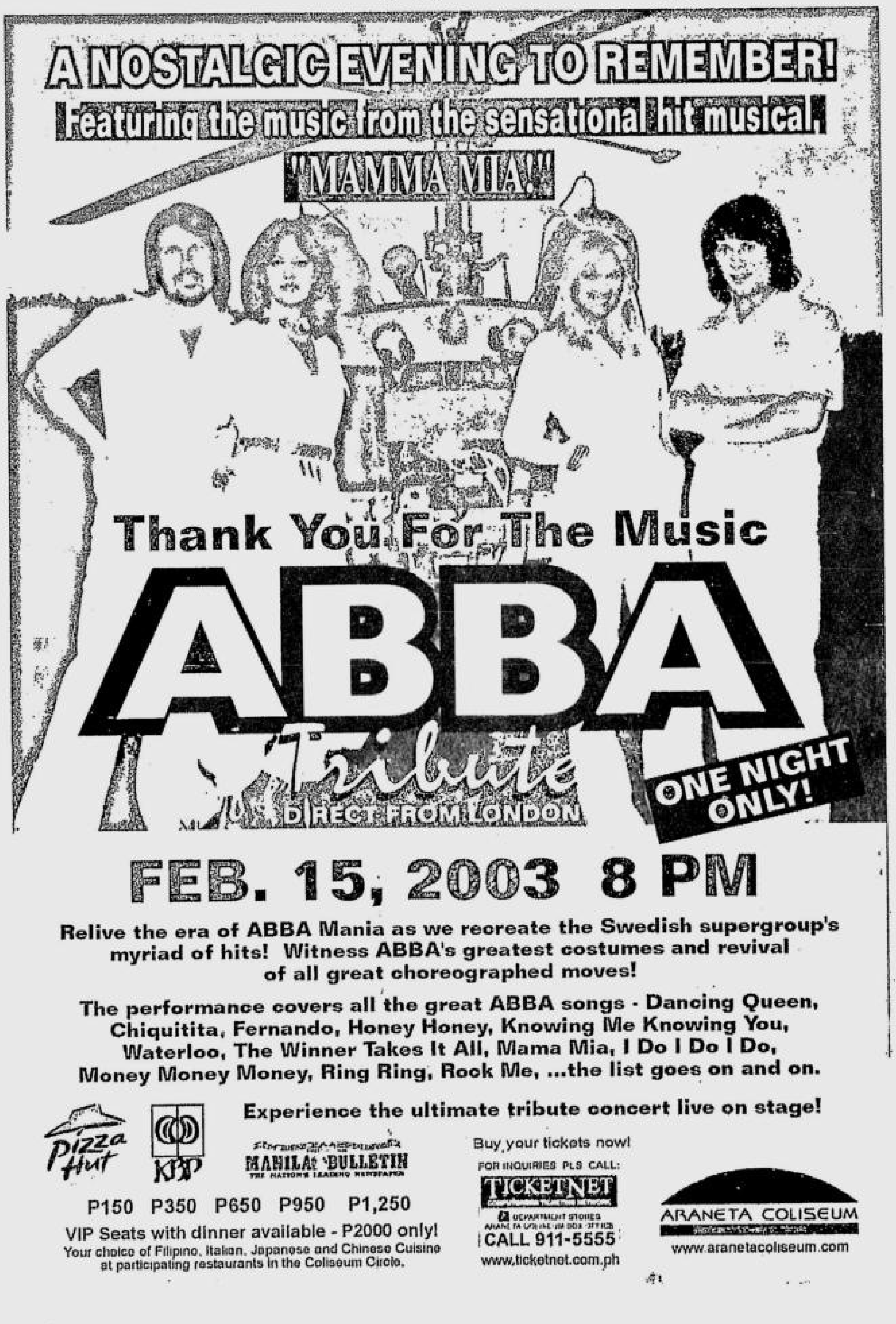
"Hair enthusiasts can watch the contest participants at work or purchase products from the fair," said Cruz.

She said that they have another project underway.

"It's going to be a road show in Davao, Cebu and San Fernando," Cruz revealed in a separate contract-signing event with Splash and Kolours on Jan. 29. "We are aware that we have mainly been concentrating on Metro Manila, so we are giving hairstylists who could not come to the country's capital for the competition a chance to improve their knowledge and skills in their craft."

The road show, also sponsored by Splash Styling Aids and Kolours Premium Coloring Creme, hopes to give instruction and assistance to professionals in other parts of the country besides Manila.

Splash Styling Aids and Kolours Premium Coloring Creme, the leading manufacturers of styling and coloring products in the Philippines, have been partners of Hair Asia in the service to the beauty and hairstyling industry for more than a decade now.



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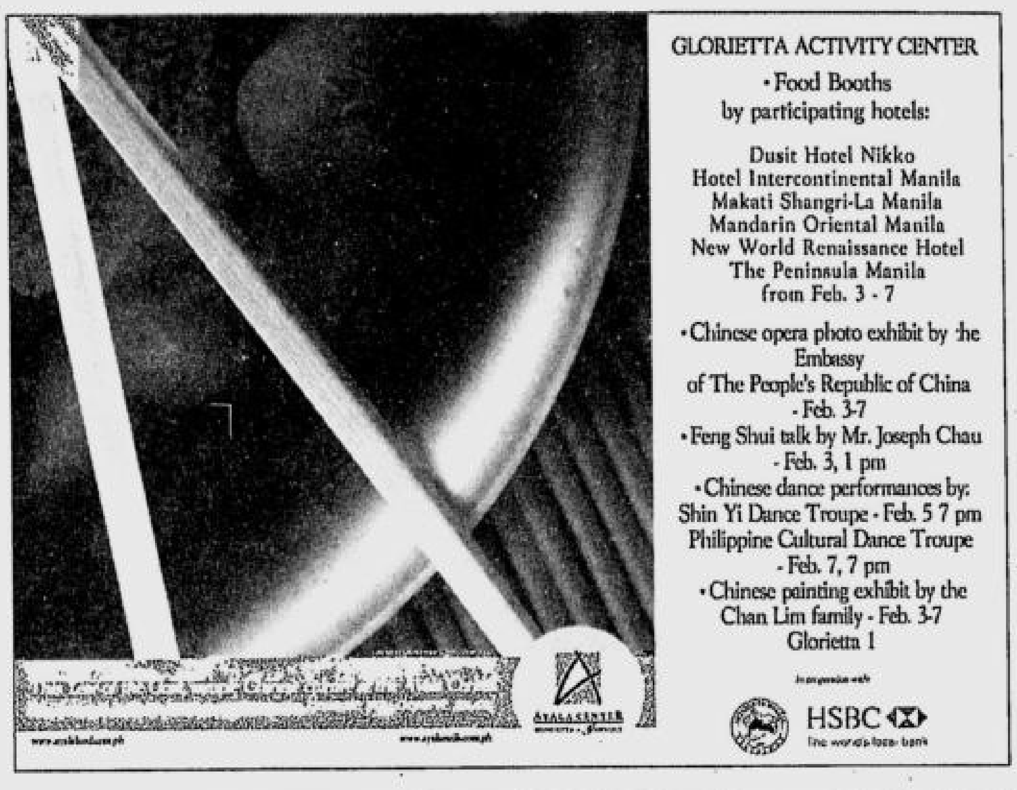
ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Louie C. Camino

COCKY AND VULNERABLE. Rap superstar Eminem makes his screen character unforgettable in his film debut.

The film represents something one always yearns for in life: to be the best at something, even for a fleeting moment



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AYALA CENTER

'8 MILE'

A full-fledged cinematic phenomenon

By Ruben M. Cruz Jr.
Contributor

REVIEW

I STOOD in the hallway of the nearest multiplex and had a dilemma I hadn't faced in a long time: What movie should I go and see when I could only watch one?

There used to be a time, before kids and other blessings like a regular job, that I would watch almost the entire roster of films being offered in the mall in just one week or weekend. There were even a few times I did so in just one day, but I wouldn't recommend doing this anymore. Coming out of the last film at the end of the day, you'd probably have trouble remembering what the first one you saw was.

Nowadays, I feel lucky enough to be able to watch even just one among the group of films currently being shown in theaters, so I try to pick what I think is the best among the lot.

Perhaps it's better this way. Just take in one film and experience it for all it's worth (or non-worth). This would rule out any hope of making a living out of writing movie reviews but I can't do that anyway, at least not here, with a family and all.

Popular sentiment

Anyhow, I'm glad I chose the film almost everybody has been raving about: Curtis Hanson and Eminem's "8 Mile." A film reviewer's role is not just to echo popular sentiment, especially when there's cause for dissent. But there are films that transcend ordinary categories of good and bad, films that penetrate straight to our hearts and make us stop caring about reviews altogether, or perhaps inspire us to write reviews of our own. "8 Mile" is one such film.

I don't dig rap music and I've never heard of Eminem's CDs or seen any one of his music videos. What I know about the guy I've read from entertainment articles, and he's certainly not someone I would like my daughter to date if she were all grown up (Gabby is two).

I would have been the perfect basher of "8 Mile." Instead, I find myself in the company of the most unlikely people who love it.

Not surprisingly, there are many in that company. There is apparently more to "8 Mile" than just rap music and Eminem, although, it is said, that the story is semi-biographical.

Impeccable screenplay

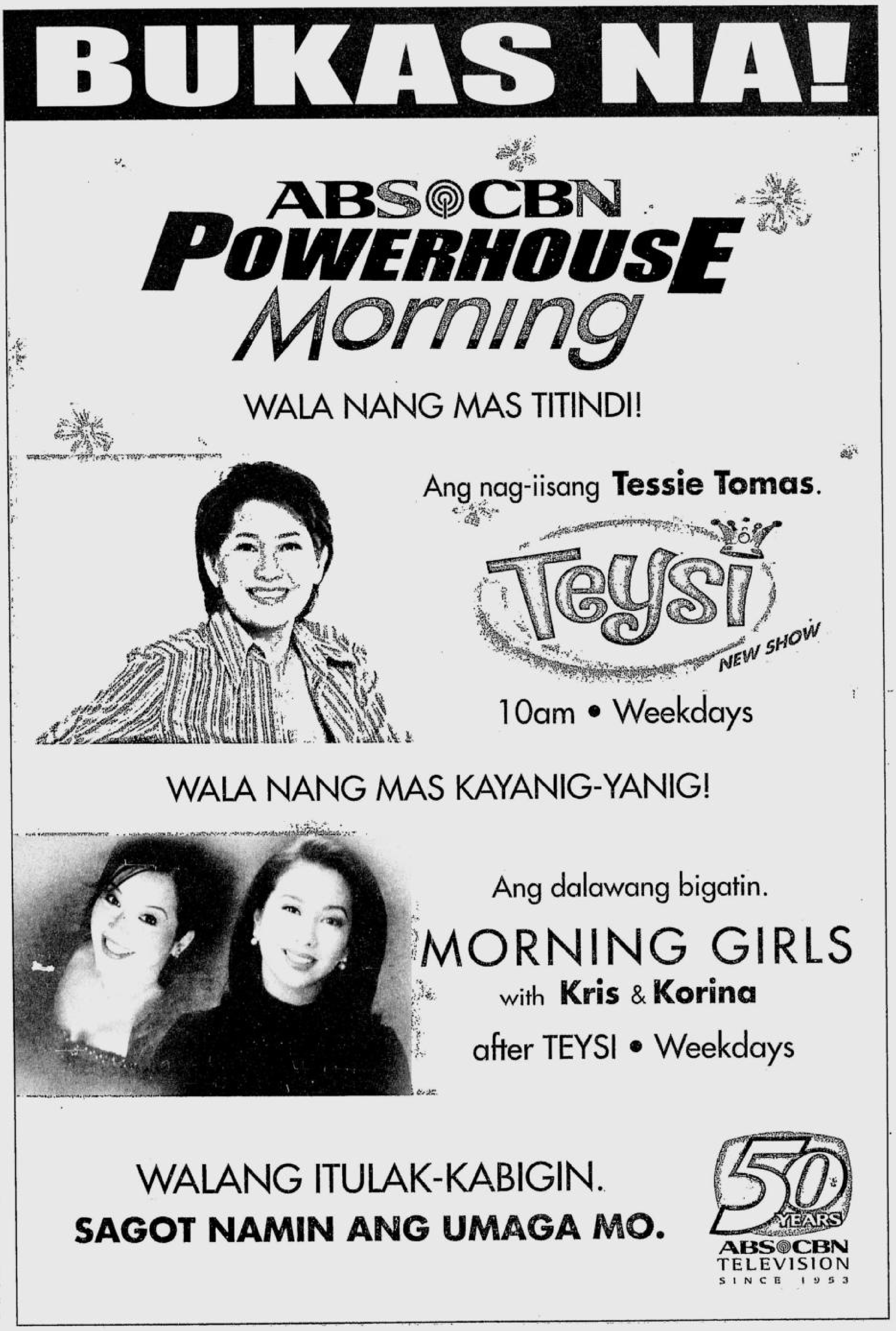
The film represents something one always yearns for in life: to be the best at something, even for a fleeting moment, when that something is what you love doing and defines who you are. It appeals to all of us who sometimes look at films as a way of completing the unfinished corners of our lives.

Watching "8 Mile" helps me remember the person I was at that moment when I formed a vision of what I'd like my life to be, when hope provided by youth and innocence was not yet overcome by broken promises.

Scott Silver's screenplay is impeccable when it comes to evoking one's yearning for transcendence. We feel it right away in the opening scene when we find our hero, Jimmy Smith Jr., known by his childhood nickname Rabbit (Eminem), glaring and jabbing in front of a mirror in a dingy public toilet, inside a rap club called The Shelter. He's gearing up for a rap competition where two rappers face off and try to outrap each other, improvising rhymes on the spot.

Jimmy's best friend, Future (who hosts these battles) and the other members of his posse all believe he's a rap genius. Indeed, he

A FULL-PLEDGE/ A25



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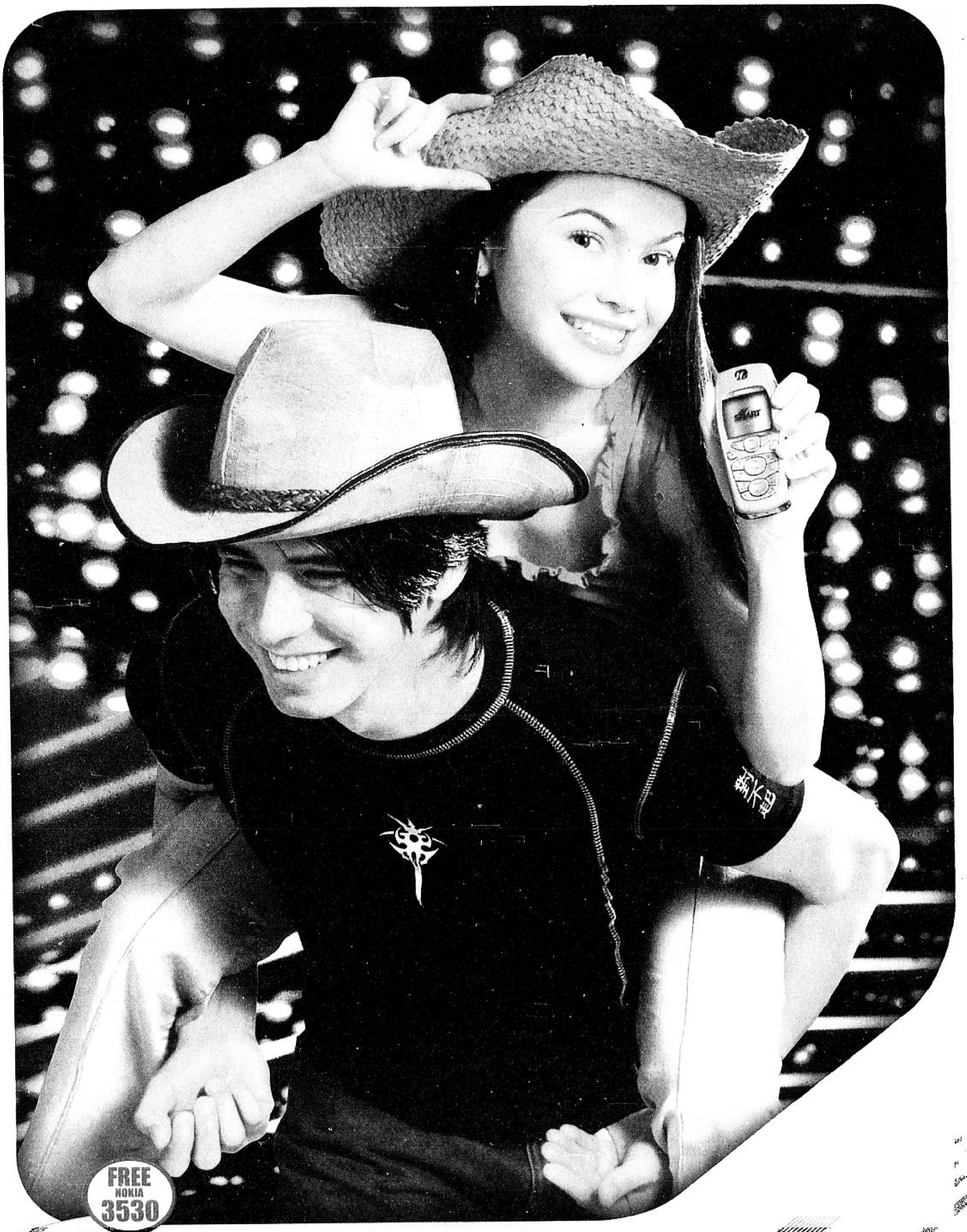

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Sunday BIZ
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Business Features Editor Margie Quimpo-Espino

Exec gets to the top of job he least prepared for

THE FUTURE president during his first year in Philamlife in 1976

FIRST JOB

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

PHILAM Plans president Jesus Alfonso G. Hofileña was just a 4th year high school student of Ateneo when he got into a spirited discussion with a woman on how to change society for the better.

She tried to convince him that any change has to come from outside because any ideals and convictions would surely be corrupted once a person becomes part of the establishment.

PHILAM Plans president Jesus G. Hofileña today

Hofileña, however, vehemently disagreed with the much older woman, who later turned out to be a communist rebel.

He told the *amazona* (name for women Leftists) in that discussion that took place in 1972 in a farmer's house in Piring, Mindoro, that it was possible to institute changes from within and possible to remain true to ideals.

And he proceeded to do just that, long after he left his student activism days behind upon graduation from the Ateneo de Manila University with a bachelor's degree in psychology as class valedictorian and summa cum laude in 1976.

Unlikely job

Hofileña found the new outlet for his energies and idealism in The Philippine American Life and General Insurance Co., which he joined 10 days after graduation as regional sales promotions manager.

HOFILEÑA celebrating his 25th birthday with Philamlife colleagues

Hofileña tells the INQUIRER that Philam's offer of a sales position was the most unrelated to his psychology background among the job options he was considering. But the challenge to try something different drove him to accept the job which paid him P2,500 a month.

"If I had looked objectively at the job offers, the Philam job would have been my least option. But it was something different so I decided to give it a try," he says.

Hofileña was also enticed by the prospect of helping people earn more money for themselves and to help them reach their full potential.

The salary was quite high, he says, as it was more than enough to pay for his gasoline and cover for occasional dates with his girlfriend Chelo Silayan who later became his wife.

"I remember that a grand date at that time would cost around P100 to P150. It was equivalent to fine dining today. We would go to the Milky Way restaurant in Malate or to Aristocrat. And if we were in the mood to try something Spanish, we would go to Guernica," he says.

He was also able to set aside enough savings to buy himself his first piece of property—a small 280-square-meter lot in Tahanan Village, Parañaque. He paid P300 a month to amortize the property.

By 1979 he got enough courage to build a house after he was promoted to assistant vice president and regional sales director for two of the three sales divisions in Metro Manila.

Quick promotions

That first promotion set the pace for other promotions that came Hofileña's way throughout his 27-year career with the Philam group.

From AVP he was promoted to senior assistant vice president and Manila sales director in 1981 and by 1988 he was named vice president and director of agencies of Metro Manila, which traditionally brought in at least half of the group's sales.

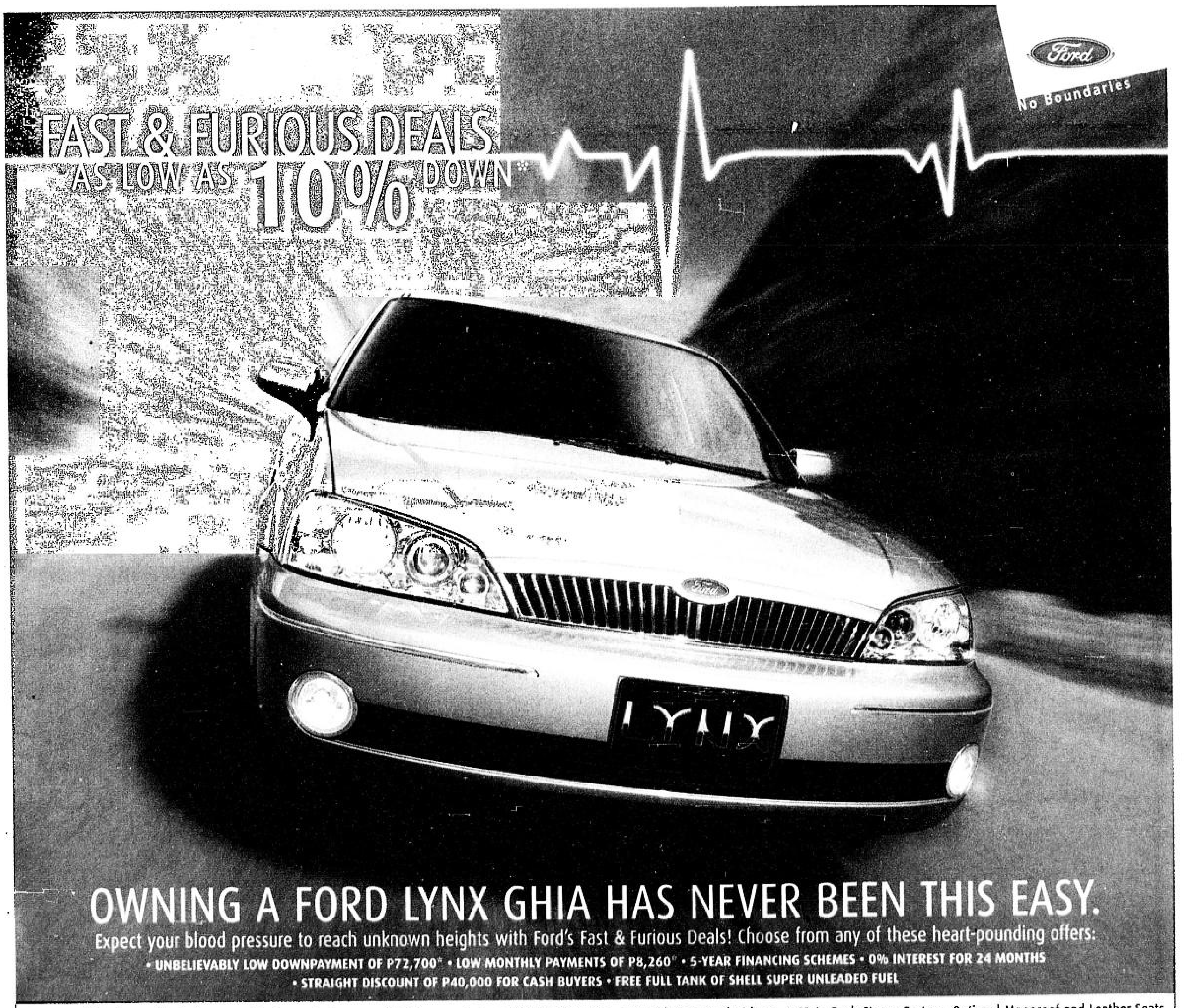
He kept the position until January 1995 when he was promoted to first vice president then senior vice president by September of the same year. By 2000 he was asked to take in more responsibilities as executive vice president and chief marketing officer and finally president and CEO of Philam Plans Inc. in October last year.

Hofileña partly attributes his fast climb up the corporate ladder to having good mentors who sharpened his skills in dealing with people.

One mentor was Renato Vergel de Dios, his first boss in Philamlife and now chief executive officer of Manulife Philippines and the other was Armand Trinidad, current general manager of Fortune Life.

"Ato (Vergel de Dios) was a very methodical and structured person. He helped me understand performance, the activity side of the business. He also taught me how to get the most productive results from people," he explains.

EXEC/ B2



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Quiet leaders build firms with morals intact

"Leading Quietly"
By Joseph L. Badaracco Jr.
Harvard Business School Press, 2002

By Dante M. Velasco
Contributor

EXECUTIVE READ

WE have been used to headline-making and head-turning leaders.

When they call a press conference, they craft a soundbite (with a little help from handlers), and their images dominate the TV monitor in an evening newscast, and their photos rule the front pages of broadsheets the next day.

When they over-simplify issues, and they declare "down with ...!" people pause and listen—some ready to do their bidding, but most wonder whether these leaders are too simplistic about these issues to be right!

And so we let out a sigh—or even whisper a prayer—that may God save the Philippines from leaders who hate complexity, and who go to the other extreme by mistaking a simplistic slogan for an elaborate but lasting solution.

Thank God—that there are quiet leaders (making up the majority in this country) who, behind the scenes, come up with substantive solutions for big and small problems. And thank heavens: There is a book—"Leading Quietly"—which gives a not-so-simplistic portrait of "quiet leaders" and which describes situations that don't lend themselves to easy answers.

This book brings us deep into the worlds we are all familiar with. We read of a struggle of a new CEO over firing a top official involved in sexual harassment. We identify with a medical representative who navigates moral and practical choices on the approved and un-approved uses of a drug.

We know the moral difficulty of withholding the truth. We are familiar with the journalist's daily struggle between propaganda and truth.

Quiet leaders, the book says, go through these—and survive with their self-worth and moral scruples intact.

The book extols even small details that don't figure in decision-making. "There are no little things," Badaracco, the author, points out.

JOSEPH L. BADARACCO, JR.
leading quietly

The story of Rebecca Olson, newly hired CEO who took pains and dug into a lot of details to fire a top executive for sexual harassment, best illustrates what a behind-the-scenes use of quiet leadership can do.

The book annotates her style: "She took her big problem, broke it down into a long series of small steps and tasks, and then worked diligently on each of them. She understood that "small things matter a lot."

The author neither gives us an idealized portrait of the quiet leaders nor provides us broad strokes about situations they deal with—heroically or not. This book gives us the real world in this century, and invites us to "drill down" into complex situations.

Badaracco is not skeptical, though. He just has a tight grip on reality. Speaking of trust, he says, this too is needed. But he quickly adds: "Too much trust is as hazardous as too little."

Technocrats, for some time, were described as bright, pragmatic but could not be depended upon to struggle over right and wrong, over caring at all about people.

The book says that quiet leaders do care, sometimes very strongly, what happens to other people and to their organizations. But they also care about themselves. Self-interest and altruism run together in their veins.

The book quotes Hillel the Elder, the great Jewish scholar and teacher, who said: "If I am not for myself, who will be for me? If I am only for myself, what am I?" We quote the greatest Jewish Rabbi, Jesus, who said it better: "Love thy neighbor as thyself." The quiet leader's frame of reference to serve others is himself—and there's nothing wrong with that.

The book challenges the conventional concept of leadership—which stresses "purity of leaders' motives, their unfaltering dedication to high aims and noble causes and their willingness to challenge the system." The author dismisses these qualities as "greeting card sentimentality in place of realism."

Beyond painting a realistic portrait of quiet leaders, the author gives us a window into how they get things done—and make an impact.

For example, he cites "strategic stalling"—a leader's decision to postpone a decision so that he can get more information. We add that, much earlier, Northcotte Parkinson called this "the law of delay," a takeoff from Hamlet's soliloquy.

"Instead of charging the hill, they often look for ways to beg, borrow and steal a little time," he points out with an interesting reference to a Frank Sinatra song.

Quiet leaders try hard to find or create some room to maneuver. They take the rules seriously, but they also look for "wiggle room"!

The portrait of quiet leaders in this book is reassuring. We know by heart that in quiet offices near the corridors of power, in factories run by high-profile CEOs, in the vast countryside ruled over by noisy chieftains—there are quiet leaders. It is they who actually build this country and any other country.

Albert Schweitzer, one who avoided the limelight but served many, pointed to these leaders as "the force that is content with small and obscure deeds, but whose sum is a thousand times stronger than the acts of those who receive wide public recognition. The latter, compared to the former, are like the foam on the waves of a deep ocean." *(dantemv@I-next.net)*

Delta to let 'Song' loose in budget market

NEW YORK—Delta Air Lines, seeking to win customers lost to discount carriers, said it will launch a new low-fare airline with some of the key features and routes that have made JetBlue Airways Corp. a star in a struggling industry.

The new airline, called Song, will offer one-way fares ranging from $79 to $299, and operate flights between the Northeastern US and Florida starting in April.

Song's lime-green planes will be equipped with in-flight live satellite television that was pioneered by JetBlue, as well as personal touch-screen monitors, pay-per-view, an MP3 audio library and in-seat Internet connections.

"If executed well, this should be a much more competitive offering than they currently have with Delta Express," Lehman Brothers analyst Gary Chase said, referring to Delta's money-losing lower-fare unit.

Song will replace Delta Express, and it is expected to account for about 10 percent of Delta's total capacity in its first year of operation.

Delta, the No. 3 US airline, hopes Song will lure travelers looking for cheaper tickets and trendier service away from other low-cost—and profitable—carriers such as Southwest Airlines , JetBlue and, especially in Delta's southern US markets, AirTran Holdings Inc.

Swan song or success?

Some of the biggest US airlines have tried in the past to create low-fare carriers and run them as subsidiaries, as UAL Corp.'s United Airlines did with Shuttle by United and US Airways Group Inc. did with Metrojet.

Both Metrojet and Shuttle by United failed, and both United and US Airways have filed for bankruptcy.

Song, based in Atlanta, will target famously loyal JetBlue customers in particular by flying some of the rival's same New York-to-Florida routes. Song also will operate out of all three airports in New York, where JetBlue is based.

JetBlue spokesman Gareth Edmondson-Jones said JetBlue, which operates out of New York's John F. Kennedy International Airport, was not looking to start up service at other area airports. He said the New York-to-Florida market has always been fiercely competitive.

Analysts said that while time will tell whether Delta or JetBlue built the better mousetrap, Delta desperately needed to step in with a stronger, more appealing product to defend its broad route network from low-cost carriers.

Costs

Song will use Boeing 757s with 199 coach seats, starting with one airplane on April 15 and adding a plane each week over 36 weeks. The planes will be completely rebuilt from Delta's current fleet at a cost of about $30 million, John Selvaggio, Song's president, said in an interview.

Delta expects Song to cross the line into profitability by the end of this year, he said.

Delta hopes to keep Song's costs low by turning airplanes around in less than an hour, employing fewer flight attendants and using its planes for 13 hours each day, which could lower costs by nearly a third compared with Delta Express.

Selvaggio said Song's lower costs will let it succeed in the same business in which US airlines failed. But analysts have said Song's costs will still be higher than those at low-fare rivals, because its pilots fall under Delta's current labor contracts and will be more expensive.

Delta has no plans to ask Song pilots for wage reductions, Selvaggio said, because similar efforts at other airlines had failed in the past to produce long-term cost savings.

Song will eventually fly 144 flights daily between Boston, Hartford, Washington, DC, New York, and four Florida cities—Orlando, Fort Myers, Tampa and Fort Lauderdale. Florida already accounts for about 30 percent of Delta's total passenger traffic, and the market is growing along with the overall leisure market, Selvaggio said.

A few markets currently served by Delta Express may be dropped from Delta and Song's route network, including Islip airport on New York's Long Island, Selvaggio said. *Reuters*

Research: 40-something man is sensitive new age guy

AS TIME marches on, his toys have a greater significance. He begins to pine for a woman his age with whom he can share a good bottle of wine and some conversation. Meanwhile, he likes that his wife works and the pressure on him to be the family breadwinner isn't so strong.

Who is this guy? The average 40-something male, per a study by Euro RSCG Worldwide. Euro has released the results of four studies executed on the subject last year. In all, the data were drawn from 3,800 men in more than 30 countries. Among the findings:

Being a man in his 40s is somewhat ambiguous, image-wise. Society is not sure how a man of that age should behave and neither is the man himself, all of which "detracts from his appeal as a consumer target, even as a lover or partner."

This generation is the first who does not see 40 as the halfway-mark in life. Men in their 40s are less likely to think of themselves as middle-aged.

They look at Michael Jordan, who will turn 40 this year and can still beat men half his age on the basketball court.

Toys begin to take on additional meaning. This reflects optimism on the part of the demo. "Unlike so many of their less-settled contemporaries, they know that they have arrived and have confidence in the fact that things are only going to get better," according to the survey.

A partner is likely to be seen as an equal. While some men continue to resent the presence of women in the workplace, many are relieved that they don't share their fathers' burden of duty to be the breadwinner.

The young trophy wife is out. Men surveyed said they wanted a woman their age with whom they could share meaningful conversation. Dates were described as "intimate and one-on-one. Theater, fine food and wine, and a hotel were a popular combination worldwide."

Euro RSCG Worldwide is the fifth largest advertising agency network in the world, with a network of 221 agencies in 75 countries.

Exec gets to the top of job he least prepared for

From page B1

Trinidad, on the other hand, taught him how to deal with people in an easygoing yet firm manner.

"I thought I had people skills but he showed me the practical approaches to dealing with people. He was a very accessible boss. I noticed how he could be very easygoing in the way he dealt with them but he can also be firm when he needed to be," Hofileña says.

People skills plus performance monitoring combined with Hofileña's own considerable skills in encouraging people to give more of themselves got him the CEO position in Philam Plans when Eliseo P. Dizon Jr. retired last year.

HOFILEÑA during one of his early sales agency visits

Looking back

Hofileña, however, prefers to think of himself as a "circumstantial" CEO who just happened to be at the right place at the right time. But he prepared himself enough so that when his bosses start looking for somebody for a top position, he would immediately be considered.

"I always tell people who ask me how to go up the ranks that they should always be ready, they should prepare themselves by learning the job of the person on top, even before they get the job. They must show great capacity for work and show that they are able to take on more responsibility," he says.

Hofileña also cautions people from wanting a promotion only for the perks, saying that getting promoted also means getting more responsibility.

"I am not saying that it is bad to aspire but they should want it for the right reasons because the higher you are in the company, more of your head is on the chopping block in case something goes wrong. They should not be in a hurry to go up but they should be prepared. You really don't lose anything by doing that," he stresses.

THE TWENTY-YEAR-OLD Jesus Hofileña during his college days

Passion

Doing more than what was asked of him was Hofileña's way of getting promotions and behind all the effort was a passion to help people. A passion that never waned from the time he actively participated in protest rallies in high school and in college.

One of his organizations was the Sarilikha, which provided social development assistance to the countryside. He was assigned to a remote barrio in Mexico, Pampanga, and it was there that he learned to deal with people from all walks of life and to develop a real sense of empathy toward less privileged Filipinos.

"When I left college, I had this perspective of helping people as much as I can. I remember our last session just before we graduated where we sat down and talked about what we would do to continue our mission. Some said that they would go to government service and others, like me, wanted to continue through the private sector," he says.

Hofileña says he is fortunate because he is still able to make a difference in people's lives within the Philam group.

"Our agents are ordinary people and I am happy when I see them doing good that is why I feel that this is not a job, but a vocation to help contribute in various capacities," he says.

He also did not leave family behind. He is happily married to Chelo and their 22-year-old daughter Annie teaches children about art.

They live in the same house that Hofileña built in 1979 and he describes their lifestyle as "one to two levels" below his actual capacity. He says doing so keeps both his feet on the ground in keeping with the advice of his father, Court of Appeals Justice Hector L. Hofileña and mother Chita.

HOFILEÑA in 1978 during an agent convention party

He also takes time to help run the Self-Enhancement for Life facility in Talisay, Batangas, put up by a classmate in Ateneo, which helps people with substance abuse problems such as drug addicts and alcoholics.

Hofileña says he finds time for this program because he never really outgrew his desire to help people in any way he can nor did he forget his long-ago conversation with the amazona in the hinterlands of Mindoro.

Though he admits that he can no longer recall her face, he can vividly recall their conversation. And if he does get to meet her again, he would be able to say with a straight face that it is possible to be an idealist in the private sector.

'FISH IN TANK' PROJECT

Gov't embarks on backyard fishing expedition

By Yolanda Fuertes
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

DAGUPAN CITY—Are you far from the sea, river or any natural bodies of water, but want to produce fish either for home consumption or for business?

Worry no more because the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources-National Integrated Fisheries Technology Development Center (BFAR-NIFTDC) here has developed a technology that enables one to produce fish right in one's backyard.

This is the "fish in tank" project, which involves the construction of concrete tanks where different fish species like hito (catfish), red tilapia and even ulang (freshwater prawns) can be raised.

The BFAR has constructed three tanks in the backyard of Speaker Jose de Venecia's house in Barangay Bonuan, a stone's throw away from the BFAR-NIFTDC Center here.

The project will serve as a model to be replicated in the four towns of Pangasinan's fourth district.

When President Macapagal-Arroyo visited De Venecia's house last month, she was so impressed by the project that she gave P1 million each to the local governments of Mangaldan, San Jacinto, Manaoag and San Fabian for the construction of similar facilities in their areas.

Ms Macapagal said the project would be adopted by the Department of Agriculture to increase agricultural productivity.

"We can put up one project in at least three barangays in every town in the country," she said.

The three adjacent tanks at De Venecia's house cover about 300 square meters, with each tank measuring 9 x 7 meters and a height of one meter.

Westly Rosario, BFAR-NIFTDC Center chief, said if the space allows it, more and bigger tanks could be built to produce more fish.

"It would be more cost-efficient because, aside from more fish, you will be using the same cost of electricity to run the water circulating machines, and the same amount for labor," he explained.

To avoid water wastage (water in the tanks is changed every two weeks), it would be better to have a vegetable garden or a tree farm nearby where used water may be used.

Around De Venecia's fish tanks are mango trees and a small vegetable plot to which water from the tanks flows.

The fish tanks use underground water with zero salinity. But there is no need to dig deep into the ground because even surface water, or the first underground water table, can be used, Rosario said.

According to the brochure prepared by the BFAR-NIFTDC, a concrete tank the size of De Venecia's costs P250,000 each. The submersible pump which circulates water around the tank costs P6,000.

There are three croppings (production cycles) every year for the freshwater prawn, red tilapia and catfish. They should occupy separate tanks.

The cost of production per cropping (four months) is P34,343 or P103,029 for three croppings for the year.

This is broken down as follows: feed (42 bags at P380 per bag), P15,960; electricity (P50 a day) or P6,200; depreciation cost of tanks and pump, P3,733; prawn fingerlings, P1,000; catfish fingerlings, P1,000; red tilapia fingerlings, P250; and labor, P6,200.

Rosario said the initial cost may be high but it would not take long to recoup the expenses.

The production per cropping could reach P97,560 or P292,680 a year.

If the production cost is deducted, however, the total income each cropping is P63,217 or P189,651 a year.

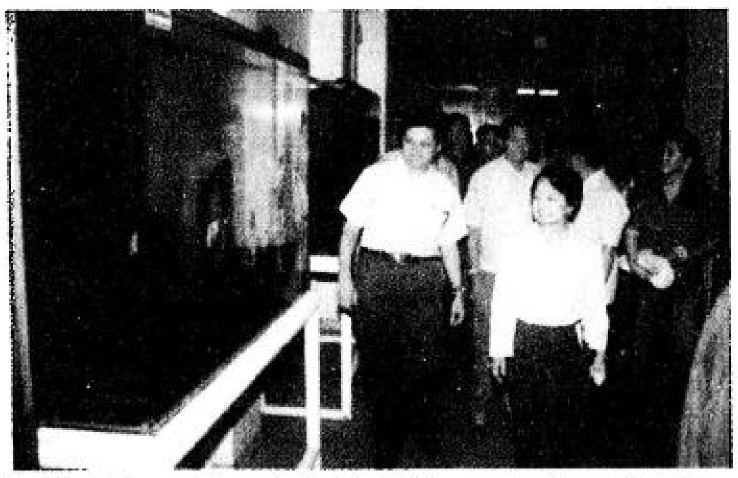
In each cropping, one can harvest 1,500 kilograms (at 10 pieces per kg) of freshwater prawns, Rosario said. The prawns can be sold at P250 a kg.

Catfish can be sold at P80 a kg in the local market. For the red tilapia, the harvest after three months could reach 167 kg (500 pieces at three pieces a kilo) and could be sold at P180 a kg.

"The red tilapia, which is very popular in Taiwan, Thailand, China and Vietnam, is relatively new in the Philippine market and has yet to attract buyers because we do not have a live fish market," Rosario said.

De Venecia has also stocked the swimming pool in his house with Australian koi carp and is constructing earthen ponds around his house.

"We need to show that we can produce our own fish especially now that we need to have sources of protein for the growing population," he said.



President Arroyo takes a look at the fish in an aquarium as she visit the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources station in Dagupan City. At left is Agriculture secretary Luis Lorenzo. RAY B. ZAMBRANO

Coffee firm . . .

From page B14

The coffee board's target, according to Mojica, is to plant coffee trees in 22,000 hectares of farmlands in the 22 provinces that the board has identified as ideal for coffee growing.

In Cavite alone, about 700 hectares of farmlands have been planted with coffee since last year, 1,400 hectares in Sultan Kudarat, and 80 hectares in Bataan.

"Unlike other government programs that didn't continue when the administration changed, ours will prevail as we are also supported by the Cavite State University," Mojica said, "And we really encourage our farmers to plant, replant, and rejuvenate coffee."

"Even our governor has his own coffee farm and he encourages our farmers to revive the coffee industry," Mojica said, "Here in Cavite, the governor can't and will never tell our farmers that he drinks tea or that the coffee industry is dead. That will demoralize them and will jeopardize our programs. The truth is, we all drink coffee and we are optimistic that we can revive the coffee industry. And that's what we are doing now."

Grassroots cooperation

At the Barako pilot farm in Amadeo town, the local people maintain the farm that was donated by the mayor's family to the movement to save the Barako.

The Cafe Amedo Development Cooperative sells different coffee varieties and blends from the town's coffee farms.

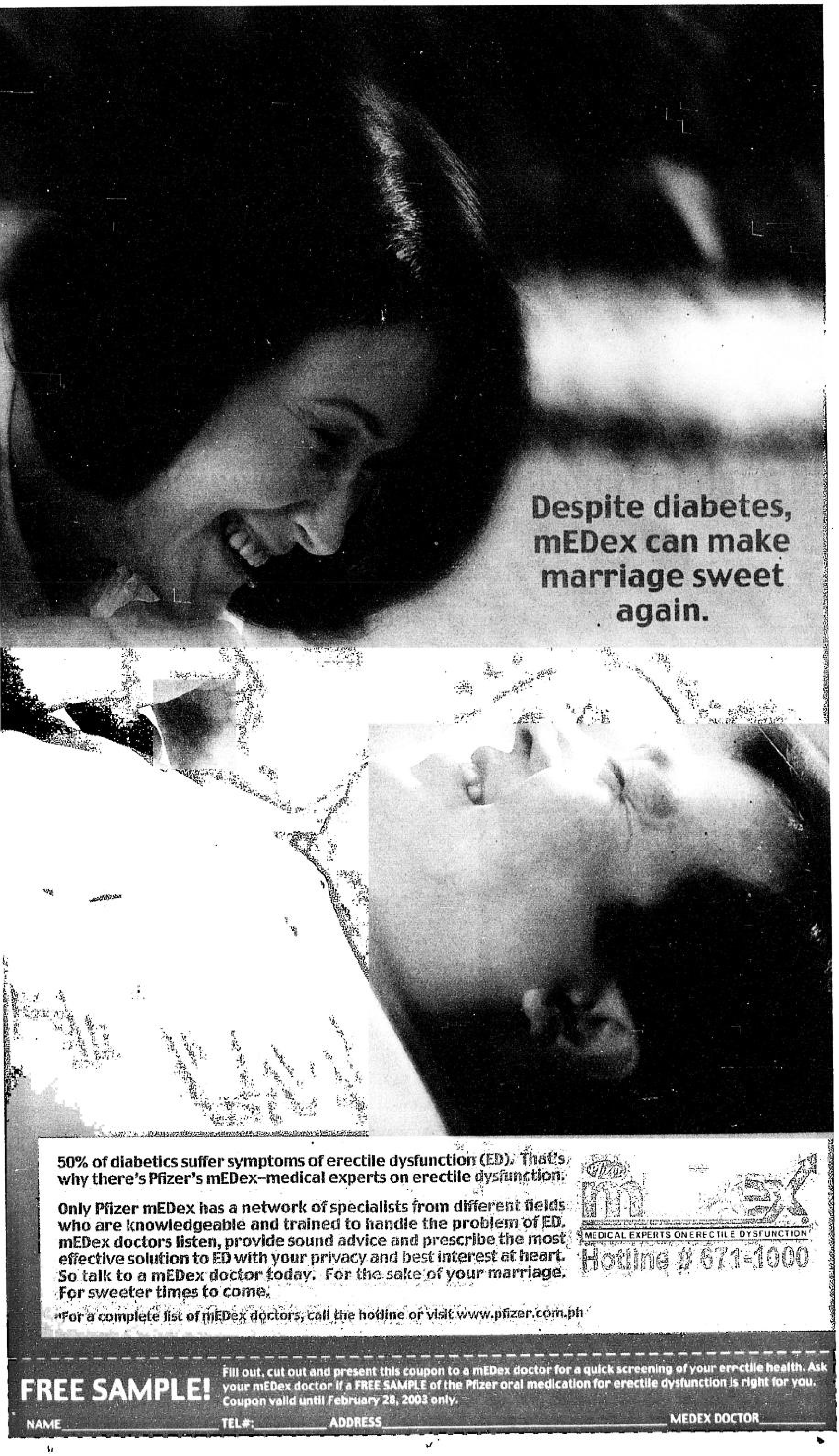
Here, P2 from every kilo of coffee sold goes to the municipal program to revive the Barako coffee and P5 goes to the seller.

Coffee prices here range from P180 to P220 depending on the blend and packaging of the coffee.

"In our Pahimis or thanksgiving festival, coffee takes the center stage," Amadeo mayor Albert Ambagan Jr. said. "That's how we value our coffee here."

According to Ambagan, a town ordinance is now being implemented penalizing the landowners whose lands remain idle.

The municipal government suggests that idle lands should be planted with coffee.



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People, Events & Products

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Aries Espinosa, Editor

Intensely Globe

TO celebrate its increasing capacity and signal strength in Cebu, Globe Handyphone launched Intensity G during the Sinulog Festival and partied with the Cebuanos, offering Globe products and services and bringing them closer to the subscribers. Here are some Globe subscribers in Cebu who attest to how great things have been made possible in their lives – thanks to Globe.

Debby Enriquez, chef

'MOTHERHOOD by Globe is easier with my cooking schedule…keeps me in touch 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.'

Ma. Teresa J. Go, events coordinator

'Globe really is helping me in so many ways. I can easily get through with my family, friends and my business deals. It's really my partner…Globe.'

Albert Lizares, Banker

'Gets me connected with my friends, relatives and everybody else in my life.'

Emilio Tumbocon, engineer

'I'm able to easily connect with work, family and friends.'

East West Bank opens new branch in Baguio City

EAST West Bank Corp. (EWBC), one of the country's fastest growing banks, continues to expand its branch network, moving further North in Baguio City. The opening of EWBC Baguio Personalized Banking Center (PBC) forms part of the bank's efforts to reach out to a wider market base, particularly in the provinces. The Bank now has a total of 47 PBCs nationwide.

The newly opened Baguio PBC is located along Abanao Avenue corner Chugum Street near one of the city's most famous landmarks, Burnham Park. Since last year, the bank has been opening a series of branches in line with its goal to become the best commercial bank and a key player in the banking industry. Only recently, East West Bank clinched the acquisition of Ecology Bank with a network of 30 branches. "The acquisition of Ecology Bank will boost our network to 77 branches nationwide. Clearly, we are fast becoming a medium-sized commercial bank to reckon with," said Elrey T. Ramos, president and COO of EWBC.

"With our unique, personalized service, a strong commitment to community building and highly innovative products and services, we are well-equipped to become the bank of choice of our desired market segment – the middle market," Ramos added.

East West Bank has reported a 153-percent increase in income as of the 3rd quarter of 2002, amounting to P117 million. At the same time, the Bank's deposits grew by 18.7 percent while loans expanded by 30 percent.

East West Bank is a subsidiary of Filinvest Development Corp., a publicly listed holding company with business interests in property development, mall operations, information technology, and manufacturing.

TARA INC. OFFICERS INDUCTED

The newly elected officers of the Teachers-Awardees and Residents Association Inc. (Tara Inc.) of Barangay Balong-bato, Quezon City, Metro Manila for the years 2003 to 2004 were inducted by kagawad Ernesto Barro. From left: Lilibeth Santos (PRO), Nitz Palanca (business manager), Antonio Ricaforte (auditor), Artemio Catabay (secretary), Rolando Loreto (vice president), Gerry Tagapan (president), kagawad Ernesto Barro (inducting officer), board of trustees: Geovani Restar, Rafael Ramos, Lumen Villarante, Ely Religioso, Mely Ramos, Ludy delos Santos. Not in the photo - trustees Dita Nepomuceno and Remigio Salavante and Fatima Villacarlos (treasurer).

THULE/EGR PHILIPPINES LAUNCHES SHOWROOM

Thule/EGR Philippines recently held the grand launch of its state-of-the-art showroom at the Equitable Bank Building, Ortigas Avenue corner Roosevelt Street, Greenhills, San Juan. Gracing the event were, from left, Lars Andreasson, Trade Minister of the Swedish Embassy, Anders Nolin, GM of Thule Asia Pacific and Erwin Versoza, president of Thule/EGR Philippines. Thule is the world's leading authority on automotive roof rack systems. Its easy snap on and snap off installation makes it appropriate for car and SUV owners. It is certified by the ISO 9001 and approved under the quality assurance systems of several car manufacturers. For inquiries, call 744-6367, or visit its showroom in Ortigas Avenue.

BITS & Clips

Meg's Prom Fair 2003

PROM night ain't no fright night. Teens in their junior and senior high school years can expect to be prepped for the prom with Meg magazine's Prom Fair. Along with the quest for the perfect prom date comes the search for the prettiest dress—shoes, accessories, bags, the list goes on. Meg brings together some of the best brands for two great weekends of fun, fashion and freebies. It's going to be an entire weekend of pre-prom madness until today, Feb. 2. The prom thrills continue Feb. 8 and 9 at the 5th level of the Shangri-La Plaza Mall. Get a load of all the prom must-haves and check out participating booths for more beauty knick-knacks. Take your pick from a charming selection of prom gowns. Meg magazine is published by Mega Magazines and Publications Inc. For more information, call Roche Sumayao or Kim Legaspi at 631-2859.

The year of the goat at Ever Gotesco

IT'S TIME to kick in the Year of the Goat at the Ever Gotesco Malls via a festive lineup of mall activities. Get a taste and feel of the Chinese life as Ever Gotesco Malls regale shoppers with its very own version of Chinatown. Get to see and enjoy a wide array of Chinese ornaments, food and delicacies until today, Feb. 2. If you're into action, catch the Wushu Exhibition today at Ever Gotesco Commonwealth and Ever Gotesco Grand Central. Shows start at 4 p.m. at the Atrium area. The ever popular Chinese Lion and Dragon Dance happens today at Ever Gotesco Ortigas.

'Ang Kasal' at Concert at the Park

CONCERT at the Park opens the National Arts and Culture Month today, Feb. 2, 5 p.m. with the presentation of Igor Stravinsky's "Les Noces (Ang Kasal)", a choreographic cantata in four tableaux, translated into the Tagalog vernacular by Dr. Ramon Santos. Concert at the Park is a weekly cultural program of the National Parks Development Committee. It is aired nationwide over Channel 4 every Thursday at 6 p.m. "Les Noces" was a major work of Stravinsky during the war years 1914-1915. The presentation is made possible by the National Commission for Culture and the Arts. Admission to the Concert at the Park is free.

3-Day sale at SM City North Edsa

THE SM City North Edsa 3-Day Sale is back. The annual sale event—considered the biggest in town—started Jan. 31 and runs until today, Feb. 2. The 3-day sale event offers unbelievable discounts of up to 50 percent on selected items mallwide. Savvy SM Supermallers on the lookout for choice buys and great deals on groceries, apparel, toys, home furnishings and many more will definitely go wild as they enjoy fabulous savings offered by participating tenants mallwide. Mall hours are from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.

FIRST QUADRANT'S 1ST ANNIVERSARY TOP AWARDEES

First Quadrant business associates Eugie Moncal (3rd from left) and Francis Garcia (right) were cited as Icons of the Quadrant in FQPI's 1st Anniversary celebrations held last Jan. 8 at the PhilSports Arena. Leading the ceremonies were FQPI president Doyee Tumpalan (left) and chair Socrates Tumpalan. Both joined the other awardees (rear) to complete this year's recipients of the company's citations.

SERVICE PROVIDER OF THE YEAR AWARDEE

The San Andreas Regional Center Board of Directors of Sta. Clara County, California awarded Fe O. Punzalan – Flintcrest 1 and 2 – the 'Service Provider of the Year' during its 5th Annual Service Above-self Awards ceremony in San Jose, California. The award is given to honor individuals or organizations who have made significant and exemplary contribution in the improvement of services and support for persons with developmental disabilities. Punzalan is flanked by her husband, German and State of California Assemblywoman Elaine Alquist, who received the award for 'Legislative Person of the Year.'

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42 Lot/L1 B6,#168 Ilang-ilang cor Gumamela Sts , Nieves Hills Lakeview Subd, Angono / *LA 598*
Min Bid - P1,603,000

Sta. Maria, Bulacan Sunrays Village
43 Lot-L2 B2 / LA 70
Min Bid - P100,000
44 Lot-L6 B2 / LA 70
Min Bid - P100,000
45 Lot-L8 B2 / LA 70
Min Bid - P100,000
46 Lot-L17 B2 / LA 70
Min Bid - P100,000
47 Lot-L19 B2 / LA 70
Min Bid - P100,000
48 Lot-L21 B2 / LA 70
Min Bid - P100,000
49 Lot-L23 B2 / LA 70
Min Bid - P100,000
50 Lot-L25 B2 / LA 70
Min Bid - P100,000
51 Lot-L27 B2 / LA 109
Min Bid - P153,000
52 Lot-L28 B2 / LA 107
Min Bid - P150,000

CABANATUAN
53 (U 104&105) Lot C2&C3 Int Del Pilar Street Barrio Sangitan
LA 300 / FA 120
Min Bid - P1,274,000

QUEZON
54 H&L / Lot 17 Block 3, Lakandula St.,Tuazon Subd, Tayabas
LA 180 / FA 165
Min Bid - P895,000

TARLAC
55 H&L/Lots 2,3,13 & 14 B32, San Rafael Homesite
TLA 1,164 / FA 219.62
Min Bid - P3,160,000

COMMERCIAL

QUEZON CITY
56 Ofc/Whse-No 399 Del Monte Avenue, Brgy. Manresa, nr Banawe
TLA 2,401.3 / FA 487
Min Bid - P62,100,000
57 W'house/Lot 3 & 21 B26, Roosevelt Ave SFDM
TLA 5,641
Min Bid - P150,000,000

MARIKINA
58 Lot w/ ofc-Bldg/L5 B1 #31 Major Dizon St, Ind'l Valley Subd Calumpang
LA 390 / FA 35
Min Bid - P3,835,000

TARLAC CITY
59 Lot/L4-A, Panganiban St Tarlac City/*LA 1,120*
Min Bid - P11,611,000
60 Lot/L4-B, Panganiban cor Rizal Sts / *LA 1,102*
Min Bid - P11,425,000
61 Lot/L4-C, Rizal St., Tarlac City / *LA 759*
Min Bid - P7,869,000

UNIONBANK MAY, AT ANYTIME, WITHDRAW ANY OF THE PROPERTIES LISTED ABOVE PRIOR TO AUCTION. ALL PROPERTIES FOR SALE ARE ON AN "AS IS WHERE IS" BASIS.

HOUSE & LOT

PARANAQUE

H&L 381sqm 5.8M Neg. Moonville, Sunvalley, Pque, Newly Renov.; Semi-Furnished; Direct Buyers Only Call My 09178411573 or 09189285875

PASAY

2 Unit House Own Grg.Tel. Malibay 8013508 Hec/Tes

PASIG

LEXINGTON EXEC. VILLAGE
Model House LA 168 FA 110m² 2BR + Maid 3T&B 0917-5308656

RENT OR SALE
#5 Phoenix Subd Nick 671-7062

QUEZON CITY

F.B. DE JESUS SUBDIVSN 4Bdrms 1T & B LA 161m²FA 81m² P650K Vic 8903461 loc 27

Maliksi St. Duplex 456m² 929-4937 • 0917-5287456

QC hse&lot 4 sale
T3755182(pm only) Stella

Rush Sale! 3sty Semiconcrete Insured 4 P1M & Lot 267m² P3M only T-9137916

HOUSE & LOT

QUEZON CITY

★ Ayala Hills QC ★
Adj Capitol Golf 470-700sqm @ P18500T & up Cash/Terms

★ Ferndale QC ★
Ayala Lots 204-290 @ P9700 & up. Hses @ P6.5M & up terms nr Gotesco QC

★ Ayala Grnfields★
ESTATE (CALAMBA)
In the foot hill pf Mt Makiling 600-1000m² @P8000/m² & up Pay 20% bal. 5-7 yrs Mo. Inst.

★ Tierra Pura★
HSE & LOT 5-6Bdr @ P8.5M-P12.5M with pool LOTS 550-670m² @ 8000-9500/m²

★ Don Jose Subd.★
420m² nr Park @P5,500/sqm
T.V. BANEZ 9319117 / 9319160

RUSH SALE furnished 3BR 3TB w/ solar heater T9369205 cell 09196166868

SALE #18 Adonis Acropolis Subdivision • Jim 636-7974

* Teachers Village * NEW 6M 18 Mahabagin St 9132403

•U.P. Vill• 9210255/9219067

RIZAL

345m² Nayong Silangan P1.8 3br Cell. No. 0917-4140898

HOUSE & LOT

RIZAL

ANTIPOLO H/L SUB T6306954

Safe of Flood and Faultline
NR ORTIGAS EXT
New French 1½Story w/view 3BR&Maids 2c'port Balcony P3M Call 9488240/ 93339448

SAN JUAN

CORNER LOT w/ 2 HOUSES 264 & 273 sqm nr Blumentritt Direct Buyers 7238088

• E-Ghills P27M & 35M DBO • 635m² & 890m² 09175320224

★ Greenhills West ★
Infront Xavier HS. 8br/7tb, 9cg Res. / Comm'l w/ Good Business Bawl Bayadi Tel. 722-1832

OTHER AREAS

2 HOUSES IN 1 CORNER LOT, 256.4 M², COMMERCIAL AREA, T-647-0877

Baguio H&L 2br 24Hrs H'O 1.6M DBO 0916-3128459

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

COMML/RESDL

DMCI HOMES
Beyond Houses Lasting Homes

OPEN HOUSE TODAY
Spanish inspired homes near Makati & The Fort
P10.7T/mo.
Flexible terms avble
641 1782 / 643 5104

LIMITED OFFER ONLY !!!
PRIME LOTS at Island Park

- ✓ a Luxury Residential Community along Governor's Drive in Cavite
- ✓ 45 mins. from *Makati* and 35 mins. to *Tagaytay*
- ✓ centrally-located between the financial districts of *Makati/Alabang* and the golf courses and exclusive clubs in *Tagaytay*
- ✓ Saint Paul College already operating within the subdivision

for as low as
P4,000/sqm.

- ✓ Limited Phase 1 and Phase 2 lots available
- ✓ Lot sizes ranging from 254 sqm. to 964 sqm.
- ✓ Easy Financing Terms
- ✓ For details call Buddy, Sandy, or Mylenne at tel. nos. 898-7547, 898-7584, and 898-7535 (Monday to Friday, office hours only)

Birmingham

SUNRISE
San Mateo, Rizal
50m² up
nr Quezon City
2BR 1TB w/carport
P950T - up

HOMES
M.L. Quezon Ext.
Antipolo City
Two-storey Town house
P1.05M - up

PLACE
Brookside Hills,
Cainta, Rizal
Hse & Lot, 2 sty Twphse
2BR, 2TB with carport
P1.5M - up

PANORAMA HILLS
Nr SSS, Antipolo
Lots Overlooking
Metro Manila
Only 20% DP Bal. 5 yrs.

HOMEOWNERS
DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Human Shelter
9410701
Classic Homes Realty
947-6867
Aes Realty
645-1996
Solid Estate Marketing
532-2443

HOUSE & LOT

CAVITE

LA MEDITERRANEA 2Stry 3Bdrm 1T&B LA110m² FA80m² P1.7M Vic 8903461 loc. 27

sdelach P700T LA96m² FA36m² 7139232/09185617004

LAGUNA

ADELINA 1 3Bdrms LA183m² P1.7M Vic 8903461 loc. 27

VILLA CASTILLO SUBD.
San Pedro, Laguna LA 80m² FA 54m² 2BR / 1TB / Grge T - 868-8744

CONDO/TWNHSE

MAKATI

Ayala 1.8M 30m² 744-3465

AYALA WEST CONDO P1.8M-P8.9M 36stry 15units avbl luxury but cheaper, Bnew. Hurry! move in now! 0916-7022867

Le Domain 104 Tordesillas St. Salcedo Vill 89.05m² 2BR furn w/pkg P5.5M neg 7224205 / 09186507617 Lito

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

COMML/RESDL

DMCI HOMES
Beyond Houses Lasting Homes

HAMPSTEAD GARDENS
OPEN HOUSE TODAY
2 BR condo surrounded by gardens & greens in Sta. Mesa, Mla.
P15T/mo.
716 7044 / 716 7039

HOUSE & LOT

OTHER AREAS

Tagaytay
House & Lot
- LA 217sqm FA 98sqm
- 3 Bedrooms
- Ready for Occupancy
- Walking distance from Tagaytay Rotonda
- Only P 25K to reserve
- DP 6 mos. to pay

Call: Mr. Ricky Ty
0917-503 5107 /
809 0833 / (046) 517 5123

CONDO/TWNHSE

MANILA

LEON GUINTO
NEAR QUIRINO AVE.
Bnew/3Sty/3BR/3TB/grge
P3.230M 8903461 loc 34

MANDALUYONG

Up & Down 2br 50 Steps From MRT Boni Stn P8333/mo. No DP & No Rsrvn 0917-4140845

PARANAQUE

Ayala Sucat 749-7480

PASIG

2br Crisanta Tower Near VVerde CClub 0917-4149898

Hampton Garden 1-2-3 br 1.5 up Joe 0917-8486738

• NICE ALEXANDRA •
P9.5M & 11M 09175320224 DBO

VV2 148SQ 5.7MM T6319440

QUEZON CITY

1005 Garden Island Twr2 34 N.Domingo St. New Mla 2BR w/pkg .74.24m² P3.7M neg 7224205 / 09186507617

2BR CONDO CUBAO 9120679

Bnew P1.1M neg Agent Com 5-10% Tel 4133788; 4149504

For Sale! 3BR QC Twhse Very Quiet Tight Security Cool & Wide Parking 0917-8940482

NEW MLA 5BR 360m² NEW 6.5M NEG HEMADY 4570041

Rosalo Eastwood City Studio 1-3BR 0917-4149898

New Manila 3BR 2car P5.5M Scout Area 4BR 2car P9.8M 7153544 / (0918)5072866

UNION SQ ONE FA80m² P1.64M 1BR 2T&B Vic 8903461 loc. 27

Xavierville Condo 36m² 1.5M Nr. Ateneo Edra 681-9712 weekdays

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

COMML/RESDL

DMCI HOMES
Beyond Houses Lasting Homes

Limited lots near Makati & The Fort
P6378/mo.
with a pool, clubhouse & existing community
837 3033/34

HOUSE & LOT

Brittany

La Posada
Sucat, Paranaque

La Marea
San Pedro, Laguna

Cottonwood Heights
Antipolo

Portofino

Call us for an appointment and we'll schedule your escorted viewing. See and Appreciate. Call us now!
Schneider Realty
644-0539 (Liza)
0917-8903466

Pathways Unlimited
7724811/7724812
0916-5722172 Annie
Choose from a wide range of FINANCING SCHEMES available
RESERVE TODAY!

CONDO/TWNHSE

SAN JUAN

LE GRAN GHILLS 1BR/2BR Nice View •809-1322/26•

OTHER AREAS

JESTRA HEIGHTS
TAGAYTAY
COUNTRY VILLAS
SERVICED VACATION RESIDENCES
P 1.6 Million 15 yrs to pay
VISIT OUR SHOWROOM AT
11/F V. Madrigal Bldg.
6793 Ayala Ave.
813-3192 • 813-3193 • 813-3690
Cynthia - 0917-4960561
Rosie - 511-3521 • 0919-2330735
Nelly - 0919-4400824
Susan - 910-2744
Espie - 631-2715

OTHER PROVINCIAL

1BR Mactan Oasis 600T 8014877

250m² Clean Title 750T 8014877

BULACAN

RUSH Sale! House & Lot! Reasonable Price!! 158 sqm Bocaue, Bulacan Call Raul 0917-4863994

CAVITE

ATTN. Racehorse Owners / Golfers fully furnished Townhouse for Sale Mla. Southwood Golf Villa Carmona, Cavite beside Fairway and near new Carmona Hippodrome call 0917-8152521

VARIED AREAS

★ AYALA Projects ★
• AYALA HILLSIDE (Q.C.)
Fairway Lots @ 18T - 20T / sqm
• ONE ROXAS TRIANGLE
Makati Condo, RFO 5yrs No Int.
• ONE LEGAZPI PARK
Condo Near Greenbelt No DP Option
• AYALA GREENFIELD
Lot • FREE Golf Share!
• AYALA WESTGROVE
Lot as low as 16T/month
Pls. Call AGNES
AYALA LAND SALES, INC.
0917-0435362 ★ Ofc 759-4762

APARTMENT

OTHER AREAS

P13,500/mo. 3BRms. w/ aircon w/tub w/tel. 120sqm. freewater Tel. 5338536 (LYN)

LOT

KALOOCAN

RAINBOW VILLAGE 5 LA216m² P3,703/m² Vic 8903461 loc. 25

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

LOT

RUSH SALE!!!
29,704 sqm
@ P375.00/sqm
Loc: Bo. Cabuco, Trece Martirez, Cavite
• Clean Title
• TERMS - OK
Call: Mr. Ricky Ty
0917-5035107/
8090833
(046)-5175123

HOUSE & LOT

LOT

MANILA

Nr Spana 142m² widefrntage morn sun no flood 3.4M 9218770

MARIKINA

Parang Marikina 750sqm 9134135 / 09205572045

MUNTINLUPA

SOUTH GREENHTS VILL 330m² fenced P3,833/m² Vic Gigie 8903461 loc 25/27

PARANAQUE

MARIMA 7120229/70

PASIG

Baguio Lot Crystal Cave 1000 sqm 4M Neg. 826-9423

BG. ILOG 318m² DBO 656-0396

GREENPARK 211m² 645-8757

GREENWOODS 308m² 645-8757

METROVILLE SUBD LA333m² P4,054/m² Vic 8903461 loc. 27

QUEZON CITY

L7 B4 Grenville Nova QC 270m² 3,0T/m² T-9201667

Comm'l lot 808m²-23T/m² 7153544 / (0918)5072866

RIZAL

22,966/m² Tanay 0916-5602367

Filinvest East 410sm /5800m² Near Clubhse Call 912-1442

Vill. East 272 & 204m² 4,200/m² Neg. Binangonan • 532-1128

OTHER AREAS

KINGSVILLE SUBD LA 397M² P4,250/m² Vic 8903461 loc. 27

TAGAYTAY VIEW LOTS-300m² up w/ club & golf memb 5yrs No DP INT. FREE 5247900 / 09175022722

TOWN & COUNTRY HILLS LA240sqm P3,125/sqm Vic 8903461 Loc. 27

OTHER PROVINCIAL

Farm Lots Lipa City P. Bata 1.5 & 4.2 Hs. 0917-5287456

BATANGAS

TAAL BingS 200m from Diversion Rd LA6794m² P186/m² Vic 8903461 loc. 27

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

LOT

BULACAN

Industrial Compound Marilao 1500m²up @P1500/m² ready to use accepts warehouse & lot package details 09175203064 T9360739 / 9358928

CAVITE

391m² P3T/m² neg Metro South Subd 7224205 / 09186507617

EAGLERIDGE GOLF VILLAGE LA 436m² Pay D/P Assume Balance 0917-5308656

Filinvest Dasmarinas 119m² 9294937 • 0917-5287456

Tagaytay 995sqm or 300@ 749-5612 • 0916-3350231 Mon

TRECE MARTIRES 140,041 sq.m. P850/sq.m. (Neg.) Along Gov. Drive, near Capitolyo, good for subdivision, school, commercial center 8091079 / (0919)6890267

LAGUNA

HOT SPRING (P1500/sqm) 0495491267/09192407691

•Laguna Subd Lots(100m² & above) alng Main Road & Creek No Flooding P1700/m² & up all lots w/ Hot Spring •Calamba Lots (5400m²) along Provincial concrete Road 150meters frontage w/ relocation map P500/m² Please Call Mr. Victor Osena Cell No. 09164989021

VARIED AREAS

Pasig Antipolo Tgty 724-4856

PROVINCIAL

Rare Investment opportunity
Affordability and Value at
Cavite Light Industrial Park
Ideally located along Maguyam Road, Carmona, Cavite
Phase 1 ready for occupancy
Phase II pre-selling easy terms
24 months to pay at ZERO interest
Call MERLE • 631-4069
or 634-2956

TAGAYTAY COUNTRY HOMES 180m² P3,500/m² Vic Gigie 8903461 loc. 27/25

BUSINESS SPACE

700m² Res or Industry W. Capitol 0917-4149898

MEMORIAL LOT

HEAVENS GATE P250T 645-8757

•HERITAGE MEMORIAL LOTS• 32Family Estates at P2,250,000 each Garden Area 4 Extra Spl Premium Lots at P600T each 14 Premium Lots at P565T each 20Regular Lots at P545,000 each Pls. Call Atty. Pollisco at 635-8341 or 0920-8084825

Loyola or Holy Cross mem. lot T3755182(pm only) Stella

Sucat single Niche 4lots Ph2 memry garden 4DBO/ 50T 09194664574

AGRICULTURAL LANDS

PLARIDEL,BULACAN 2HA OR 1501SQM W/MANGO TREES BENG 931-4466 or 912-4573

FARM/FISHPEN/ RAWLANDS

SAN MIGUEL LA4000m² P250/m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

TAAL Btngs 200m from Diversion Rd LA6794m² P186/m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

FACTORY/WHSE

17,413m² Maysan Val. P100M Neg. Near City Hall 638-3056 / 0917-5276615

RESORT

Calaca, Bats 1ha. w/ 2New Resort Haus, 1Caretaker Haus Strong Flowing Water w/ Tel. Line Sale P35M Call 361-9953 / 364-6696

P.Princesa Resort 4Hectares T2339187 0916-5703302

WANTED TO BUY

*Vacant Lot in Cubao 240m² area *Vacant Lot in Teachers Village 400m² area Pls Call 913-1737 / 437-0769

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

CB Richard Ellis
Burgundy Corporate Tower
252 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City
Newest office development in Makati
Strategically located and cut office units
Sizes range from 47.00 to 127.00 sqm.
Call 7522580/8487388/ 8841363
E-mail: rislp@cbre.com.ph

COMMERCIAL

MAKATI

MKTI LOT P 21K 5508606

Pasay Rd corner Mktl Ave across New World Hotel/ Glorietta 3 Lao' Ctr 3rd Flr 140sqm 817-8630 & 8171272

QUEZON CITY

Alng Cmowelt Rd.9218376

COMMERCIAL/ RESIDENTIAL

MAKATI

FOR SALE/LEASE Office Space Unit 1804, Medical Plaza Ortigas 40.05 sqm.Resd'l Unit (Fully Furn.)Unit 4-F, Parkville Condominium, Mkt City call T-819-1624/819-5051 to 53 Ask for Ms. Mary Ann Baldridge

SAN JUAN

GHills Annapolis 3BR 190m² Office / Residence nice 09179634319 ; 7224181

HOUSE

ALABANG

FOR RENT
82 Tanauan Ayala Alab.
Lot. 475/Flr. 700sqm.
• Call MYRNA 893-1043 •

MANILA

1BR Bung Complete 7152251

PASIG

BUNG 80sqm 9160535 / 7284275

QUEZON CITY

Proj 7 P5500 371-6685

CAVITE

Brand new fenced 4-br house along Kawit Nat'l. Rd., across Cavite Home Cable Ideal for expats.P25,000/mo. Call 0917-5288435 for apptmnt

CONDO/TWNHSE

KALOOCAN

NEW 1BR•2BR COM'L
CLINIC•OFFICE•P6.5Tup NO ASSOCIATION DUES•NO RENT increase for 2yrs. • with tel & cable lines #162 P. Jacinto cor. #39 Biglang Awa Caloocan • Call Zeny • 323-0175 Tintin • 527-7616

MAKATI

10T Stu 1-2-3-BR 0919-3245878

BNEW MKTI CONDO-11K
OXFORD SUITES FF
ELEGANT W/ NICE VIEW
10MINS.FR.ROCKWELL
NR BUENDIA & MKTI AVE.
759-2335*752-2580
0917-7940078

BNEW MKTI RES CONDO
WEST AYALA
Gil Puyat Ave. Cor. Ayala
37-140 sqm 11K-50K
759-2335•752-2580

BRAND NEW STUDIO COM'L
very clean w/security guard impressive lobby w/ elevator P7.5T no association dues 1672 Dian St Mkti nr Buendia - Call Rose 8449823 • 0918-9390355

CLASSICA TOWER-123BR
Salcedo Village, Makati
43-157m² 18-70K,UF/FF
759-2335*752-2580*848-7388

For Rent Pacific Plaza
DFort Higher Flr • 826-9423

MANILA

MARBELLA I STUD 8220354

Studio F.Furn w/Pkg 817-8780 842-2002, Cell 0917-4218935

MANDALUYONG

1br Condo Gov. Place Mand. Call 637-6208 Office Hrs.

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE OR RENT

COMMERCIAL/ RESIDENTIAL

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE OR RENT

COMMERCIAL/ RESIDENTIAL

RENT/SALE
TWIN TOWER
Makati – 271 sq.m.
3 BR 2 tel. lines 2 parking
ANTEL PLATINUM TOWER
Makati – 97.38 sq.m.
2 BR 1 parking
ANTEL SEAVIEW – Tower C
Roxas Blvd., Pasay City
3 BR 147.08 sq.m. 2 parking
SALE
ORCHARD FAIRWAY LOT
With Membership
705 sq.m. Dasmariñas, Cavite
COFFEE Plantation – Tagaytay
Area – 10,000 sq.m.
Tel. No.: 551-66-90
Cell No.: (0917) 817-7158
(0919) 231-1983

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

CONDO/TWNHSE

MANDALUYONG

PIONEER 15T 55m² F/F NEW TENNIS /GYM /POOL 4578041

PASAY

1BR near HERITAGE 7351810

PASIG

Along Meralco Ave. 1br Tel, w/ Parking Call 931-3686

For Rent or Sale Renaissance 3000 Ortigas • 826-9423

QUEZON CITY

3BR 3CR 1GARAGE 0917-5142326 / 781-8890

•EASTWOOD CITY Lafayette BNEW 1BR STUDIO furnished 453-2454 ; 925-0315 MALU

BAGUIO

Condo Unit w/3Large Brms 1Md's Rm • 0916-3486481

APARTMENT

MAKATI

2BR Up/Dwn 1BT gar/CMPO 7765-6 JB Roxas St. Mkt. Ideal4Famly 8963175 Egay

Nr. Ayala w/Grge 870-6848 11T

MANILA

NEW 2B/R MLA 11TH 7405825

PASIG

P8T SCREEND QUIET 2STRY 3 ADULT NO CHILD T-635-4244 4 SN CLEMENTE KAPITOLYO 1BLK frm SHAW 1KM frm EDSA

QUEZON CITY

2BR Conct Scrn TB w/Grge 5H2nd West Cramo 724-7466

SAN JUAN

2 Stry 2bdrm 10 Padilla Carport P8000 Call 724-6396

FOR LEASE

WAREHOUSE 542SQM W/60SQM OFFICE NEAR THE INT'L AIRPORT. IRASAN COMPLEX NINOY AQUINO AVE., PQUE CITY. CALL ARIS, TOOTS OR ROMY TEL# 829-6696 829-9164 8208641

WAREHOUSE/ FACTORY

53 GOV PASCUAL WHSE 3610652

ROOM & BOARD

LDY Near Wel Rld. 1.8T 7405825

New Ladies Dorm U-Belt Mla Accept Reviewees T-6810992

Twin/Triple Sharing w/ A/C TB nr DLSU, ST.SCHO, PWU 523-5465

BEDSPACE

Accept lady back C.O.D. 15th Ave Cubao 421-4652

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

BEDSPACE

DORM IN A CONDO-4K
BURGUNDY WESTBAY TWR
V.CRUZ NR LASALLE/ST.SCHO
ALSO AVAIL. 4 RENT:
1,2,3 BR/COML UNITS
752-2580/759-4802
0917-8370184

Male Bedspace P1800/mo. near PSBA & Ateneo M-F 10am-3pm Call 982-8897

M/F Pasay 5500254 Robert

nr Ayala 6709544 09192341393

Resdn'l/Furnish 2PerRm Male Single Bed T897-3770

BUSINESS RENTAL

524 EDSA KALOOKAN 3610652

Ayala Mkt 233sqm w/2 prkg w/partition carpet wall paper Tel.893-8456 812-5250

CORINTHIAN PLAZA OFFICE SPACE AVAILABLE 380M², 122M², 250M² GRND FLR. FOR INQUIRIES CALL 811-31-83/811-32-80

MAKATI nr BUENDIA
Ptamo 38/62/129/185m² 1st class 8903461 loc 34 or 19 ofc hrs

Resd'l / Bus Bo. Kapitolyo 70m² 631-9771 • 634-1212

LOAN & MORTGAGE

2% W/O TAKING CAR 3677523/24

BUSINESS LOANS 842-2788

FINANCING-EASY FAST VERY PRIVATE CONVENIENT H/L Business Personal Gigle/Ernie 8903461 loc. 25/23

LOT FOR LEASE

210sm W/Gate / Sml Ofc 351 H. Lopez Blvd Balut 15T Willie 637-7355

Sucat Rd. 1555sqm Pque w/elec. 5464463 fully fenced

OFFICE SPACE FOR RENT

50sqm Off Space w/ Comon Area at Tektite Pasig P15T /mo. Sweeney 631-5619/20

Comml 33m² 60m² 532-6483

FOR RENT
Makati Office/Warehouse
• Call MYRNA 893-1043 •

WANTED TO BUY

INVESTMENT BANKING FIRM (London Investment) Needs Credit Card Processing Co., Banks, Real Estate, TV/Cable, Telephone Co. Info@litonline.net 001-619-2969821

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE OR RENT

COMMERCIAL/ RESIDENTIAL

25T/mo. 4br 3tb Grge Gud for Off. or Residence 0919-2653256

HOUSE & LOT

Ayala Alabang Netto 8093808

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE OR RENT

CONDO/TWHSE/ FOR SALE/RENT

1br 2tb 50sqm P2M Near CH2 0916-6274266 Ofc or Res.633-1838

Mkti Condo Sale/Rent Crown Tower de la Costa 2BR 2TB 150Sqm Md Rm TB 1 Pkg New 2TB Cabinets LEO 09175286515 RUSH

TRANSPORTATION FOR SALE

CARS

FORD

02Xpdtion silvr 4260687

For Sale F-150 lariat 1999
Red "Superkinis"
750Thousand Negotiable
Call:(0917)810-0152

HONDA

97 H. City P278T 922-3177 Casa Maint. 0917-4068667

MERCEDES

87MBnz 260SE 1266 4260687

M. Benz VAN MB 100 Model 1997 Call 726-6065

MB200 Kompresor 2000 Avant Gard 7000KM P2.4M Sweeney 631-5619 up to 20

MITSUBISHI

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NOTICE OF LOSS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN TO THE PUBLIC THAT THE STOCK CERTIFICATE NEGROS NAVIGATION WITH 5000 SHARES ISSUED TO PACO CATHOLIC SCHOOL WITH STOCK CERTIFICATE NUMBER 0021343 WAS LOST. IF NO CONTEST RECEIVED NEW CERTIFICATE WILL BE ISSUED
PDI-Jan. 19,26 & Feb. 2, 2002

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INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Bicol University thru its Bids and Awards Committee – Equipment and Services (BAC-ES) invites interested bidders to participate in the bidding for security services.

Interested bidders may secure registration documents from the Legal Office, Bicol University Legazpi City from **January 27 to February 5, 2003.** Deadline for submission of registration documents is on **February 7, 2003.**

Pre-Bid Conference will be on **February 14, 2003** at 2:00 p.m. at the Conference Room of Bicol University Computer Science Institute (BUCSI), Multipurpose Building, Main Campus, Legazpi City at which place and time, bid documents will be released at cost.

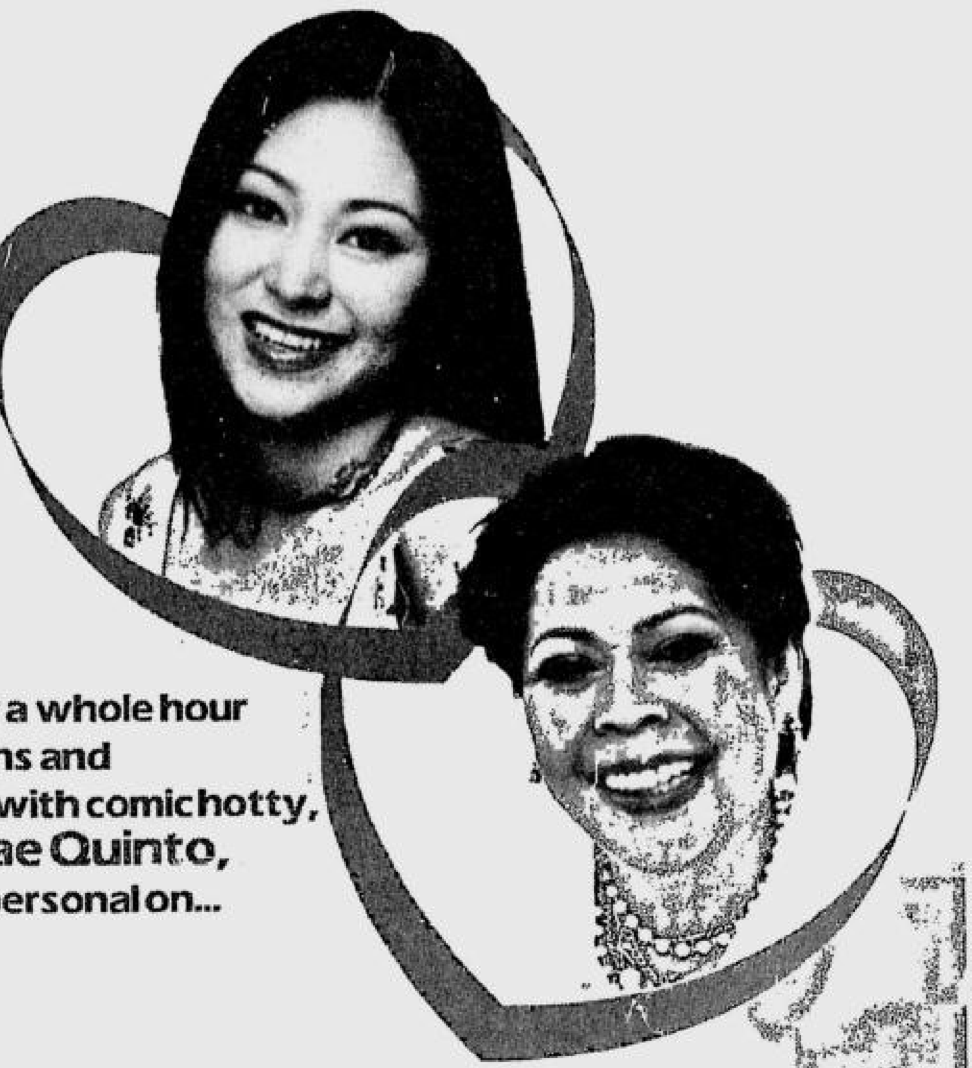
Public Bidding will be on **February 28, 2003**, 2:00 p.m. at the Conference Room, BUCSI Multipurpose Building, Main Campus, Legazpi City. Opening of bids will immediately follow at 2:01 p.m.

The BAC-ES reserves the right to reject any or all bids, without offering any reason, waive any formality therein and recommend an award to the bidder whose bid is most advantageous to the agency. The BAC-ES assumes no obligation for whatever losses that may be incurred by the bidders in the preparation of bids, nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

For further information, please contact the Legal Office, Bicol University, Main Campus, Legazpi City at telephone numbers (052) 481-5071 and (052) 821-7958.

(Sgd.) **EMILIANO A. ABERIN**
President

(PDI - Jan. 27 & Feb. 2, 2003)



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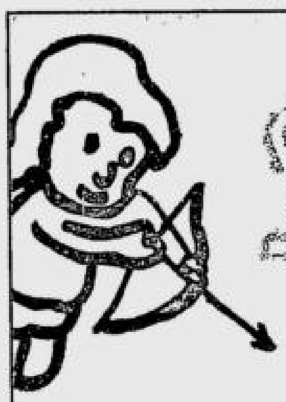

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Valentine's like you, Trish, don't come along everyday. I love you. – Paul

size: 3 lines

My heart beats for you and only for you, Tim. This Valentine's day, let's paint the town red – Mimi

size: 4 lines

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In Loving Memory

ON THE SECOND DEATH ANNIVERSARY OF

Philip T. Duyongco

OF HOUSTON, TEXAS, U.S.A.

Who died in the Grace of our Lord last
February 2, 2001

Masses will be offered at:

Christ the King Parish, Greenmeadows Ave., Q.C. .... 8:30 a.m.
St. Francis of Assisi, Shaw Blvd., Mandaluyong .... 9:00 a.m.
Shrine of Mary, Queen of Peace (Our Lady of EDSA) .... 6:00 p.m.
Edsa cor. Ortigas Ave., Q.C.

His beloved wife **Lulu** and daughters **Michelle**, **Tanya** and **Marjorie**, brothers and sisters, other relatives and many friends request the pious readers to remember *Philip* in their prayers.

Message of Thanks

The bereaved children, children-in-law, grandchildren, brothers, sisters, nephews and nieces of the late

ROSITA RAYMUNDO GARING

(Aling Ita)

who was born on February 8, 1923 in Naujan, Or. Mindoro and joined her Creator on August 29, 2002 at the age of 79

wish to convey their heartfelt gratitude to all those who paid their last respect and grieved with them, offered Masses and prayers, sent flowers, messages of sympathy, kept vigil, were present at the novena Masses, funeral rites, burial services and who in various ways gave them comfort at the time of their great lost and sorrow.

Relatives and friends are invited to please gather in her memory on February 8, 2003 (Saturday) 3:00 p.m. at Musoleo Garing, San Carlos Memorial Park, Naujan, Oriental Mindoro, where prayers will be offered in honor of her 80th Birth Anniversary. Get together right after will follow.

Message of Thanks

We, the children and family of the late

Ma. Rita Z. Alcantara

(July 20, 1937 - January 21, 2003)
of Malate, Manila and Palnab, Virac, Catanduanes

wish to express our sincere appreciation and gratitude to all our relatives and friends who sent flowers, Mass Cards, spent precious time with us and expressed in many other ways their love, concern and support during our time of sorrow.

MAMA is now resting together with PAPA with the LORD.

"I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me will live, even though he dies, and whoever believes in Me will never die." John 11:25-26

ROBERTO YULO GARCIA

Former Director, Import and Export Department, Central Bank of the Philippines
Former General Manager, Philippine International Convention Center

Peacefully joined his Creator
on January 29, 2003 at the age of 74.

His loving wife **Jo**; children **Tina** and **Ricky Cruz**, **Gigi** and **Lugie**, **Bob** and **Melinda**; grandchildren **Tiffany** and **Dan**; **Gianina**, **Gillian** and **Giselle**; **Anton**; brothers **Gumersindo Jr.**, **Ernesto**, **Eduardo**; sister-in-law **Gloria**; and all relatives and friends request the pious readers to join them in praying for his eternal happiness in heaven.

His remains lie in state at St. Martin Chapel,
Sto. Domingo Church, Quezon City.

Cremation will be on Wednesday, February 5, 2003
at Funeraria Paz after the 10:00 a.m. Mass.

On his eighth death anniversary
we lovingly remember

Enrique Muñoz Razón

who passed away on 3 February 1995.

Holy Masses will be offered on Monday,
3 February 2003 at:

Adoration Convent of Divine Peace
Bonifacio St., Mandaue City at 6:00 a.m.

St. Alphonsus Mary de Liguori Parish
Magallanes Village, Makati City at 6:15 a.m.

Malate Catholic Church
Our Lady of Remedies Parish
Malate, Manila at 7:00 a.m.

Santuario de San Jose Parish
Greenhills East, San Juan
Metro Manila at 7:15 a.m.

Nuestra Señora de Guia Parish
M.H. del Pilar St., Ermita, Manila at 8:00 a.m.

Stella Maris Chapel
3F ICTSI Administration Building
Manila International Container Terminal
MICT South Access Road, Manila at 12:15 p.m.

Santuario de San Antonio Parish
McKinley Road, Forbes Park
Makati City at 6:00 p.m.

St. James the Great Parish
Ayala Alabang Village
Muntinlupa City at 6:00 p.m.

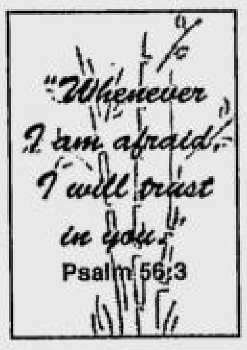
Message of Thanks

For all that you have done to console our hearts ...
For visiting us and being with us in our time
of sorrow and joy ...
For the mass cards and kind words of sympathy ...
For the beautiful flowers to express compassion ...
For celebrating and attending Masses and funeral rites ...
For all of your acts of kindness and thoughtfulness ...

Dacal Pong Salamat ...

From the family of the late

Cleofe Consunji Vda. de Hizon



"Whenever I am afraid, I will trust in you."
Psalm 56:3

BIENVENIDO R. ESTIOKO

Peacefully joined his Creator
on January 30, 2003.

His family requests all relatives and friends to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at #055 Mabini Street, Sta. Lucia, Fairview, Q.C.

Message of Thanks

The family of the late

ELOISA (ELY) MARIANO ABRINA

(1932 – 2003)

who joined her Creator and was cremated on January 30, expresses their deep gratitude to relatives, friends and colleagues from the **MARIANO & ABRINA** families, Guerrero Elementary School, Arellano High School Class '50 and to all who have touched her life.

Mommy is finally home.

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS: ❶ Copy of Death Certificate ❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT • MESSAGE OF THANKS • DEATH ANNIVERSARY • REQUIEMS • FREE OBIT DESIGN

OBITUARIES

I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

John 14:6

My soul finds rest to God alone;
from Him comes my salvation.

Our Dearly Beloved Daddy

LEONARDO "NARDS" MONFERO

1953 – 2003

Now peacefully rests in the infinite Grace and Goodness of the Lord on the 30th day of January 2003.

His loving wife **Julieta**; children **Romano Arko** and **Aaron Ralph**; parents **Juanito & Elisa**; sister **Leticia**; brothers **Alfredo & Rebecca, Romeo & Lilibeth**; nephews and nieces request the kind readers to please pray for his eternal rest.

His body lies at the San Fernando Funeral Homes, Inc., 167 Kaingin Road, Brgy. Apolonio Samson, Balintawak, Q.C. until Sunday, February 2, 2003 at 3:00 a.m. afterwhich his remains will be transferred to Infanta, Quezon.

Cremation will be on Wednesday, February 5, 2003 at the Eternal Gardens Crematorium at 1:00 p.m.

LILLIAN FERNANDEZ DEL CASTILLO

Joined her Creator
and her husband Jose G. Del Castillo
at the age of 88 on 3 January 2003
at Glendale, California, USA.

Her children **Mira & Yong Escano, Linda & Mandy Amiana, Isa & Orjan Berlin, Bobby & Letty Adriano, Rolly & Dottie Ang, Charlie & Orange Nolasco, Inday,** and **Monet & Evelyn Galvez.**

Her grandchildren, grandchildren-in-law and great grandchildren, request friends, relatives and pious readers to join them in prayers for the repose of her soul.

Atty. Jose Cayetano Payawal

Peacefully left us to rest in the loving embrace of the Lord on January 31, 2003 at the age of 92.

His bereaved wife **Concepcion Sy**; children **Manuel & Lillian Bolisay, Bienvenido (†) & Ma. Fe Yu, Josephine, Aurora & Amado Dela Rosa, Jorge & Marilou Florentino, Francis**; grandchildren **Mariscelle, Armand, Anna & Celina, Joanne & Ryan**; sisters-in-law **Rosario (†), Amparo, Pilar & Juanito (†) Payawal**; niece **Maricar** and nephew **Jhune & Cora**, great grandchild **Stephanie** request your prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Sto. Domingo Church, Quezon Avenue, Quezon City (January 31 & February 1) & Sta. Maria Della Strada Church, Katipunan, Loyola Heights, Quezon City (February 2 to 5).

He will be laid to rest on Thursday, February 6, 2003 after the 8:00 a.m. Mass at Sta. Maria Della Strada Church. Interment will follow at the Heritage Memorial Park Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila.

So Dearly Missed
So Lovingly Remembered on the

FIRST DEATH ANNIVERSARY

of our Dearly Beloved

BEATRIZ "BETTY" GOTIANUY LU

who joined her Creator on February 3, 2002

Holy Masses will be offered on Monday, 3 February 2003 in the following churches in Cebu:

1. **Sacred Heart Church .... 6:00 AM**
2. **Ludo Cemetery Chapel .... 8:00 AM**
3. **San Nicolas Church .... 5:00 PM**
4. **Redemptorist Church .... 5:30 PM**

Novena Masses will be offered starting February 4, 2003 to February 12, 2003 at 6:30 PM at the Carmelites Chapel.

Her family and relatives enjoin friends and the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

CLASSIFIEDS

Republic of the Philippines
Office of the President
Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council
HOUSING AND LAND USE REGULATORY BOARD

INVITATION TO BID

The Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board (HLURB) invites interested parties to a public bidding for *Security Services and/or Janitorial/Administrative Services Personnel* for CY 2003 to be held on **25 February 2003 at exactly 9:30 A.M. and 2:00 P.M.** respectively, Board Room, HLURB Bldg., Kalayaan Ave., corner Mayaman St., Diliman, Quezon City.

Bid forms and instruction to bidders may be secured at the General Services Division, Ground Floor, HLURB Bldg., Kalayaan Ave., corner Mayaman St., Diliman, Quezon City, any time during office hours upon payment of non-refundable fee of *P200.00.*

Request for clarification and other inquiries may be addressed to the said office in writing or in person before the public bidding or thru telephone number 924-33-72.

HLURB reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any required formalities in the bids received and to accept such bids which are considered most advantageous to the Government.

(Sgd.) **FRANCISCO L. DAGÑALAN**
Commissioner and Chairman
Bids, Awards & Contract Review Committee

(PDI–Feb. 1 & 2, 2003)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Finance
BUREAU OF CUSTOMS
PORT OF MANILA
Customs District II-A
South Harbor, Manila

January 31, 2003

NOTICE OF SALE

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 2601 and 2607 of the Tariff and Customs Code of the Philippines, there will be a **"PUBLIC NEGOTIATED SALE"** (Sealed Bidding) of the hereunder listed various articles/goods to be conducted on **February 11, 2003** (Tuesday) (Registration shall start at 1:30 p.m. and ends at 2:00 p.m. & the auction sale shall start at 2:00 p.m.) at the Office of Auction & Cargo Disposal Division, Room No. 304, Customhouse Bldg., South Harbor, Port Area, Manila. Said goods/articles shall be available for public viewing on **February 10, 2003**. For further inquiry, please contact the following telephone nos. 527-80-51 local 437, & 527-19-75

ITEMS/DESCRIPTION
One (1) lot of Various Household Goods
Cigarette Making Machine

"AS IS WHERE IS"

CASH BOND REQUIRED: P20,000.00

(Sgd.) **Atty. REYNALDO S. NICOLAS**
District Collector
Port of Manila

(PDI-Feb. 2, 2003)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
BUREAU OF INTERNATIONAL HEALTH COOPERATION
Bldg. No. 3, 1st floor, San Lazaro Compound, Rizal Avenue, Sta. Cruz, Manila 1003
Telefax Nos. 711-95-82; Telno: 781-88-43, 743-83-01 local 1310, 1311, 1304
e-mail address: bihc@doh.gov.ph; website: omega.doh.gov.ph/bihc

January 22, 2003

NOTICE

The Department of Health under the Early Childhood Development Project-Department of Health (ECDP-DOH) Component is need of the following consultant (individual) to provide technical assistance in the implementation of the Project's Food Fortification sub-component:

1. **Business and Food Nutrition Situation Analyst (1)**

Interested individuals may get a copy of the Terms of Reference from Department of Health- Early Childhood Development Project, Ground Floor, Bldg. 3 San Lazaro Compound, Rizal Ave., Sta. Cruz, Manila. Letters of interest with curriculum vitae and salary history must be submitted on or before **February 14, 2003** to the undersigned at the address below:

Bureau of International Health Cooperation
Department of Health
G/F Building 3, San Lazaro Compound
Rizal Ave., Sta. Cruz
Manila

Should there be further inquiries, you may contact Ms. Sharon Andrea Lumpias, Executive Assistant- Early Childhood Development Project at telephone no. (632) 338-6516 and 743-8301 loc. 1343.

(Sgd.) **REMEDIOS V.S. PAULINO**
Director IV

(PDI--Feb. 1 & 2, 2003)

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
PROCUREMENT SERVICE
INTER-AGENCY BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The **PROCUREMENT SERVICE (PS)** invites G-EPS registered suppliers to apply for eligibility and to bid for the **SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF MIMEOGRAPH AND COPY PAPER for the PS STOCKS.**

The approved budget for this contract is **P15,500,000.00.**

All interested parties are invited to attend the **Pre-Bid Conference** that will be held on **February 11, 2003, 1:30 AM at the PS Conference Room, 2nd Floor, PS Complex, Cristobal St., Paco, Manila.**

The bid documents shall be available at the **PS-PURCHASING DIVISION** starting **January 27, 2003** upon payment of non-refundable fee of **Five Hundred Pesos (Php500.00).**

The bidders shall submit their duly accomplished eligibility requirements technical and financial proposals in three separate sealed envelopes at the bid box located at the Office of the Head of the IABAC Secretariat at the above mentioned address. Deadline for submission and opening of bids shall be on **February 25, 2003 at 1:30 PM.**

For more information, please call the **PS-Purchasing Division at telephone nos. 563-94-02 or 563-93-74.**

PS reserves the right to waive any formality in the responses to the eligibility requirements and to this invitation. PS further reserves the right to reject any and all proposals, or declare a failure of bidding, or not award the contract, and makes no assurance that a contract shall be entered into as a result of this invitation.

(Sgd.) **EDUARDO P. OPIDA**
Chairman, IABAC

(PDI – Jan. 26 & Feb. 2, 2003)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Effective 09 January 2003,
MEDARLITO S. VALLESTEROS
is no longer connected
with **MAPFRE ASIAN INSURANCE CORPORATION.**
Any representation made on behalf of our company starting this date shall not be valid.

(PDI – Feb. 2, 2003)

TO THE PUBLIC AT LARGE

LGTM Corporation with MR. TEODORO N. CAMACHO IV as president has been offering lots for sale at the 50,000 square meter property located at Munting Mapino, Naic, Cavite, which it calls the ST. JULIANNE HOMES (formerly JOJO VILLA SUBDIVISION).

Please be informed that all these lots are involved in a litigation, 2 Civil Cases and Criminal Case IS No. 02-146 filed last February 14, 2002 and pending before the Provincial Prosecutor's Office of Imus, Cavite.

The owner's duplicate copies of the lot's titles are all in the possession of our client, the Marcbilt Realty and Development Corporation (MRDC).

RICARDO J.M. RIVERA LAW OFFICE
Counsel for MRDC

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER JOBMarket ONLINE

Read it every Sunday with the Philippine Daily Inquirer and visit it online at www.jobmarketonline.com

Your career might only be a click of the mouse away.

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Finance
BUREAU OF CUSTOMS
PORT OF MANILA
Customs District II-A
South Harbor, Manila

January 31, 2003

NOTICE OF SALE

Pursuant to the provisions of Sections 2501 and 2607 of the Tariff and Customs Code of the Philippines, there will be a **"PUBLIC AUCTION SALE"** (Open Bidding) of the hereunder listed various articles/goods to be conducted on **February 11, 2003** (Tuesday) (Registration shall start at 1:30 p.m. and ends at 2:00 p.m. and the auction sale shall start at 2:00 p.m.) at the Office of Auction and Cargo Disposal Division, Room No. 304, Customhouse Bldg., South Harbor, Port Area, Manila. Said goods/articles shall be available for public viewing on **February 10, 2003**. For further inquiry, please contact the following telephone nos. 527-80-51 local 437, and 527-19-75.

ITEMS/DESCRIPTION
One (1) lot of Various Freezing Store Materials and Equipment
30 ctns. Onion Powder
One (1) lot of Overstaying Cargoes
"AS IS WHERE IS"

CASH BOND REQUIRED: P20,000.00

(Sgd.) **Atty. REYNALDO S. NICOLAS**
District Collector
Port of Manila

IMPORTANT: Pursuant to Customs Administrative Order No. 3-94, approved on March 18, 1994, as implemented by CMO No. 12-94 dated April 07, 1994, a Registration Fee of Two Thousand (P2,000.00) Pesos is required to be eligible to participate in the auction sale. The District Collector has the right to reject any/all bid offer if it is deemed disadvantageous to the Government.

(PDI – February 2, 2003)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
CENTRAL OFFICE
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

BLDG. #3 SAN LAZARO COMPOUND
RIZAL AVENUE, STA. CRUZ
MANILA, PHILIPPINES
TEL. NO. (632) 743-83-01 LOCAL 1338
E-Mail Address: www.doh.gov.ph

31 January 2003

INVITATION FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Department of Health invites sealed written bids for the Procurement of Expanded Program on Immunization (EPI) Supplies and for Brokerage Services.

Only duly accredited DOH suppliers/manufacturers and exclusive distributors as certified by the DOH Accreditation of Supplier's Committee for Hospital/Medical/Laboratory Supplies are qualified to participate for the Procurement of 10,500,000 pieces Autodisable Syringe 0.5 ml. and for Brokerage Services must be a license broker with a valid License to Operate and or Mayor's/Municipal Permit as Broker with the following schedule of activities:

PARTICULARS	ISSUANCE OF BID DOCUMENTS	PRE-BID CONFERENCE	DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF BIDS	OPENING OF BIDS
CATEGORY I: EPI SUPPLIES				
Procurement of 10,500,000 pcs Autodisable Syringe 0.5 ml	February 3 to 28, 2003 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.	February 17, 2003 9:00 a.m.	March 3, 2003 9:00 a.m.	March 3, 2003 9:01 a.m.
CATEGORY II: SERVICES				
Brokerage Services	February 3 to 27 2003 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.	February 14, 2003 9:00 a.m.	February 28, 2003 9:00 a.m.	February 28, 2003 9:01 a.m.

For further details/information, please contact COBAC Secretariat, Procurement and Logistics Service, Bldg. #26, Department of Health, San Lazaro Compound, Sta. Cruz, Manila, telefax no. (632) 711-68-31, tel. no. (632) 743-83-01 loc. 3626 & 3627.

The Department of Health reserves the right to accept or reject any bid and to annul the bidding process and reject all bids at any time prior to award of contract without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders or any obligation to inform the affected bidder or bidders of the grounds to the Department of Health.

By Authority of the Secretary of Health:

(Sgd.) **ZENAIDA O. LUDOVICE**, MD, MPH, CESO II
Assistant Secretary of Health
Chairperson, Central Office Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI – Feb. 2 & 9, 2003)

NOTICE

THE PUBLIC IS HEREBY NOTIFIED THAT A WARRANT OF ARREST HAS BEEN ISSUED BY THE REGIONAL TRIAL COURT OF CEBU, BRANCH 61 AGAINST CEFERINO SERVANO, MANAGER OF NORTHERN CEBU CONSTRUCTION CO. INC., BANTAYAN, CEBU AND SEVERAL OTHER CO-ACCUSED IN CRIMINAL CASE NO. B-01262 FOR THE CRIME OF THEFT.

ANY INFORMATION LEADING TO HIS ARREST WILL BE APPRECIATED BY THE PRIVATE COMPLAINANTS. PLEASE REPORT TO THE AFOREMENTIONED REGIONAL TRIAL COURT IN BOGO, CEBU.

(PDI – Feb. 2, 2003)

INQUIRER TRiViA

By BONG BARRAMEDA

Fingernails

Q. How fast does one's fingernails grow?

A. The average rate of growth for a fingernail is one inch in eight months – though people vary and nails, too – and the middle fingernail grows the fastest, and the thumb and little finger the slowest. And all of your fingernails grow about three times faster than your toenails. If you're between 20 and 40 years old or pregnant, your fingernails and toenails are growing faster than the rest of the population. Usually a fingernail will end up breaking by the time it reaches five inches long, and a toenail by the time it is almost that long, though there are people who have grown theirs much longer by just sitting around and not using their hands or feet very much.

A Friendly Reminder. Fingernails and toenails look hard but are actually porous. Water can move through them a hundred times quicker than through your skin. This makes potential damage from nail polishes and polish removers, why dry the nails. If you use these products, you should let your nails 'breathe,' free of polish, for two or three days out of every month, otherwise, they will yellow. Other things that dry out the nails include very hot water and various household cleaning products.

Not-So-Famous First. The first woman to wear trousers or pants as an article of feminine apparel was the famous French actress Sarah Bernhardt, who was photographed at her Paris studio in 1876 costumed in a jacketed trouser suit of extraordinarily modern style and appearance. (It should be noted that the 'bloomers' introduced by the American feminist Amelia Bloomer in 1848 were baggy pants worn beneath a short skirt, and not trousers in the generally accepted sense.) But trousers for street wear would not be in vogue until the sensational appearance of the German actress and singer Marlene Dietrich in the 1930 film Morocco

WORD WATCH

Pantalon: from the Spanish *pantalon*, which, in turn, derives ultimately from Pantalone, a stock character in Italian comedy who always wore a particular type of trousers with long, tight legs and a sort of bloused effect around the hips.

PDI – February 2, 2003

Republic of the Philippines
PROCUREMENT SERVICE
INTER-AGENCY BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

1. The Government of the Philippines has received a loan from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) toward the cost of Integrated Community Health Services Project, and it intends to apply part of the proceeds of this loan to payments under the contract for the **Supply, Delivery and Installation of Hospital's Telephony Telecommunications Equipment** for the Province of Palawan.
2. The **Procurement Service**, acting for the **Department of Health**, now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the supply, delivery and installation of telephony equipment briefly described as follows:

Description	Unit	Quantity
Communication Server	units	12
Back Up Battery 12V 18 Ah	units	48
Call Accounting System w/ PC	units	10
Call Accounting System Back up UPS	units	10
Dot Matrix Printer, 80 columns	units	12
Auto Attendant w/ Voice Mail System	unit	1
Auto Attendant Back Up UPS	unit	1
Solar Panel with Controller 180 watts	set	1
Digital Telephone w/ QWERTY keyboard for local programming	units	10
Digital Telephone	units	43
Analog Telephone	units	196
Modem	units	31
Rural Telephony Radio	sets	42
Power Supply Charger	units	42
12 V 24 Ah Back Up Battery	units	42
Solar Panel with Controller, 75 watts	sets	16
7 element Yagi Antenna	sets	42
Coxial Cable with connectors, 120 ft.	sets	42
80 ft. Antenna pole	sets	27
Structured Cable House Wiring	units	12
Outside Wiring	lots	4
Communication Server Installation	lots	12
Rural Telephony Installation	lots	42
Licensing Rural Telephony Radio	lots	42

The detailed list and quantity of items are included in the Bid Documents.

3. The schedule of bid activities are as follows:

Activity	Date	Time
Issuance of Bid Documents	January 27 to March 17, 2003	8:00 AM 5:00 PM
Deadline for Issuance of Bid Documents	March 17, 2003	5:00 PM
Pre-Bid Conference	February 11, 2003	9:30 AM
Deadline for Submission of Bids	March 18, 2003	1:30 PM
Opening of Bids	March 18, 2003	1:31 PM

4. International Shopping will be conducted in accordance with ADB's procurement guidelines and is open to all Bidders from eligible source countries.
5. Interested eligible Bidders may obtain further information from and inspect the Bidding Document at the address given below:

   Procurement Service
   Department of Budget and Management
   RR Road, Cristobal Street
   Paco, Manila
   Philippines

6. The Bidding Document, in the English language, may be purchased by interested Bidders at the address above or on submission of a written application to the address above and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of FIVE THOUSAND PESOS (P5,000.00) in cash or ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS (US$100.00) plus mailing fee of US$50 in the form of bank draft. Documents for overseas delivery shall be sent by surface mail or courier. No liability will be accepted for loss or late delivery.
7. Bids must be delivered to the above address in accordance with the Instruction to Bidders on or before the deadline of submission of bids. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in the amount of not less than two Percent (2%) of the Total Bid Price. Late Bids shall be rejected. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below:

   Conference Room of the Procurement Service
   Department of Budget and Management
   RR Road, Cristobal Street
   Paco, Manila
   Philippines

8. Prior to the Bid Opening, a Pre-Bid Conference will be held on the scheduled date at the address above.
9. The Procurement Service or the Department of Health will not be responsible for any costs or expenses incurred by Bidders in connection with the preparation or delivery of Bids.
10. In the comparison of Bids, ADB's Domestic Preference scheme will be applied in accordance with the provisions stipulated in the Instruction to Bidders.
11. The Department of Health and Procurement Service reserve the right to reject any or all bids without disclosing any reason, to waive any minor defects or infirmities therein and to accept such bid as may be considered advantageous to the DOH and to local health units.

(Sgd.) **EDUARDO P. OPIDA**
Chairman, IABAC

(PDI - Jan 26 & Feb 2, 2003)

NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION
GENCO 6

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

G6-2003-001

The Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) - GENCO 6 invites interested bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for the following requirements:

SCHEDULE		ITEM/DESCRIPTION	PR NUMBER
		DATE OF BIDDING: FEB. 20, 2003; 10:00 AM	
A1	1 LOT	WO' REFURBISHMENT OF POWER TRANSFORMER OF UNIT NOS. TGPP PLANTS ABC	3 TIW-02-0069
		DATE OF BIDDING: MARCH 05, 2003; 2:00 PM	
B1	12 PCS	PROXIMITY PROBE AND SEVEN (7) OTHER PARTS OF BENTLY NEVADA	3 TIW-02-0057
		DATE OF BIDDING: MARCH 06, 2003; 10:00 AM	
C1	1 LOT	JO' REPAIR/REHAB OF PAGING SYSTEM AT MAKBAN GPP PLANT C	3 MAK-02-0554
C2	1 SET	GENERATOR PURGING GAS MONITORING SYSTEM	3 TIW-02-003
		DATE OF BIDDING: MARCH 06, 2003; 2:00 PM	
D1	2PCS.	SOLENOID VALVE FOR TURBINE TRIP AND STEM FREE VALVE	3 MAK-02-0532

NOTE: A Pre-Bidding Conference wil be held at the SLRC Bidding Room for the following bidding schedules on:

1) A1 · FEBRUARY 3, 2003; 10:00 am
2) C2 · FEBRUARY 3, 2003; 2:00 pm
3) C1 · FEBRUARY 3, 2003; 4:00 pm

Complete sets of Application Form for Eligibility and Bid Documents may be obtained from Procurement, Traffic and Warehousing Services (PTWS) Section, Administration Division, GENCO 6, San Vicente, Biñan, Laguna, upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P100.00 starting January 29, 2003. No bid documents will be issued on the date of bidding.

Bids will be received at the SLRC Bidding Room, NPC-SLRC, San Vicente, Biñan, Laguna on the date and time specified above after which Eligibility Requirements and Bid Proposals will be opened in the presence of attending bidders.

Prospective Bidders shall signify conformance to bidding terms and conditions as required and shall ensure the same through proper submission/execution in accordance with "Executive Order 40".

The Bidder shall furnish as part of his bid, a bid security in the amount equivalent to a percentage of the approved budget for the contract to be bid in the form of Cash, Manager's/Cashier's Check Irrevocable Letter of Credit - One percent (1%), Bank Guarantee - One and a half percent (1.5%), Surety Bond - Two and a half percent (2.5%), penal and callable on demand issued by a Surety or Insurance Company accredited by the Office of the Insurance Commission.

NPC-GENCO 6 reserves the right to reject any or all bids at any time prior to award of contract, waive any defects therein, and accept the offer most advantageous to the Corporation, without thereby incurring any of the following: a) liability whatsoever to offset expenses or losses the bidder may incur in the preparation of the bids and b) obligation to inform the affected bidder or bidders of the grounds for the basis of the BAC's action.

(Sgd.) **R. H. HERRERA**
Chairman - BAC

(PDI - Jan. 25 & Feb. 2, 2003)

Republic of the Philippines
PROCUREMENT SERVICE
INTER-AGENCY BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

1. The Government of the Philippines has received a loan from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) toward the cost of Integrated Community Health Services Project, and it intends to apply part of the proceeds of this loan to payments under the contract for the **Supply, Delivery and Installation of Hospital Referral Radio System** for the Province of Palawan.
2. **The Procurement Service**, acting for the Department of Health, now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the supply, delivery and installation of radio equipment briefly described as follows:

Description	Unit	Quantity
VHF Radio Repeater Station with Cavity Filters	sets	3
VHF Base Radio Station	sets	33
Power Supply/Charger	units	36
12 V 24 Ah back up battery	units	39
Solar Panel, 75 Watts	sets	15
VHF Mobile Radio w/ whip antenna	sets	40
Hand held radio with charger and extra battery	sets	267
Solar Panel, 5 watts	sets	152
HF SSB Transceiver with DATACOM	sets	3
Radio Modem	units	3
12 V 40 Ah Back Up Battery	units	3
HF Broadband Antenna	sets	3
Power Supply/Charger	units	3
Desktop PC	units	3
4 Element Vari-Loop Antenna	sets	33
8 Element Vari-Loop Antenna	sets	6
2 Element Vari-Loop Antenna	sets	163
8-ft Antenna pole	sets	11
120 ft Coxial Cable with fittings	sets	39
20-ft PT mast with 50 ft coax cable for BHS	sets	163
Construction of Repeater Station Dog House	lot	2
VHF Radio Installation and commissioning	lots	242
Licensing VHF Radios	lots	346

The detailed list and quantity of items are included in the Bid Documents.

3. The schedule of bid activities are as follows:

Activity	Date	Time
Issuance of Bid Documents	January 27 to March 17, 2003	8:00 A.M.- 5:00 P.M.
Deadline for Issuance of Bid Documents	March 17, 2003	5:00 P.M.
Pre-Bid Conference	February 11, 2003	9:30 A.M.
Deadline for Submission of Bids	March 18, 2003	9:30 A.M.
Opening of Bids	March 18, 2003	9:31 A.M.

4. International Shopping will be conducted in accordance with ADB's procurement guidelines and is open to all Bidders from eligible source countries.
5. Interested eligible Bidders may obtain further information from and inspect the Bidding Document at the address given below:

   Procurement Service
   Department of Budget and Management
   RR Road, Cristobal Street
   Paco, Manila
   Philippines

6. The Bidding Document, in the English language, may be purchased by interested Bidders at the address above or on submission of a written application to the address above and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **FIVE THOUSAND PESOS (P5,000.00) in cash or ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS (US$100.00) plus mailing fee of US$50 in the form of bank draft.** Documents for overseas delivery shall be sent by surface mail or courier. No liability will be accepted for loss or late delivery.
7. Bids must be delivered to the above address in accordance with the Instruction to Bidders on or before the deadline of submission of bids. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in the amount of not less than two Percent (2%) of the Total Bid Price. Late Bids shall be rejected. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below:

   Conference Room of the Procurement Service
   Department of Budget and Management
   RR Road, Cristobal Street
   Paco, Manila
   Philippines

8. Prior to the Bid Opening, a Pre-Bid Conference will be held on the scheduled date at the address above.
9. The Procurement Service or the Department of Health will not be responsible for any costs or expenses incurred by Bidders in connection with the preparation or delivery of Bids.
10. In the comparison of Bids, ADB's Domestic Preference scheme will be applied in accordance with the provisions stipulated in the Instruction to Bidders.
11. The Department of Health and Procurement Service reserve the right to reject any or all bids without disclosing any reason, to waive any minor defects or infirmities therein and to accept such bid as may be considered advantageous to the DOH and to local health units.

(Sgd.) **EDUARDO P. OPIDA**
Chairman, IABAC

(PDI–Jan. 26 & Feb. 2, 2003)

REPUBLIKA NG PILIPINAS
PASEGURUHAN NG MGA NAGLILINGKOD SA PAMAHALAAN
(GOVERNMENT SERVICE INSURANCE SYSTEM)
LUNGSOD NG QUEZON SANGAY II (SIBILYAN)
Diliman, Lungsod ng Quezon
1101

IN-HOUSE BIDDING COMMITTEE (IHBC)
(GSIS Quezon City Branch Office)

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND BID

The GOVERNMENT SERVICE INSURANCE SYSTEM (GSIS) Quezon City Branch Office invites all general contractors to pre-qualify and bid for the construction of the proposed GSIS Quezon City Branch Office Building.

Interested general contractors with Inter-Agency Committee (IAC) classification of at least "AAA" (for buildings and infrastructures) and Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) license of category "AAA" may participate in this public bidding upon submission of their formal Letter of Interest and after passing pre-qualification and accreditation phase of this public bidding.

Interested contractors may secure the pre-qualification checklists and standard GSIS accreditation forms from the Physical Resource Section, Administrative Division at the 4th Floor, PCA Annex Bldg., Commonwealth Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City during regular office hours starting **January 23, 2003.**

Deadline for submission of pre-qualification documents shall be on **February 3, 2003.** Pre-qualified contractors shall be informed of the schedule of the pre-bid conferences and the actual public bidding by registered mail.

The GSIS reserves the right to reject any and all bids, to waive any defects or formalities therein, and to accept such bids as may be considered most advantageous to the System.

(Sgd.) **ANGELINA A. PATINO**
IHBC, Chairperson
GSIS-QCBO

(PDI - Jan. 18, 20 & 22, 2003)

Sexbomb Dancers mount casino show

WHAT makes the Sexbomb Dancers click?

Find out on Feb. 28 when the hottest all-female group mount a concert, "Yo... My Sexbomb," at Casino Filipino Parañaque on Dr. A. delos Santos Ave. (formerly Sucat) in Barangay Sto. Niño, Parañaque City.

Veteran comedienne and TV host Ruby Rodriquez is also featured in the show, which will start at 9 p.m.

Mounted by Red Chair Production headed by Abigail del Mundo, with Pagcor and Focus E Incorporated, the concert showcases the singing and dancing talents of the 14-member group which first endeared themselves to the Filipino audience through the long-running, daily noontime show "Eat Bulaga" on GMA 7.

For ticket inquiries, call Casino Filipino Parañaque at 521-5777, Sitcom Live Comedy Bar in Las Piñas at 872-2454 or TicketNet at 911-5555.

The Sexbomb Dancers now have their own following on "Eat Bulaga." The girls have translated their phenomenal popularity into two albums and one hit film.

Their first album under BMG Records Pilipinas carried the hit single "Bakit Papa," which was also the title of their movie. They also recorded a Christmas album.

An overflowing crowd of hysterically screaming fans turned out for each mall tours of the Sexbomb Dancers during the promo for their albums.

SEXBOMB DANCERS. Phenomenal popularity.

'Booba' with heart

RUFA Mae Quinto is out to prove she's beyond her pretty, sexy and dumb image when she gets into a one-on-one with host Inday Badiday in "Heart to Heart," 11 a.m. to 12 noon today on GMA 7.

After the session with Inday, what emerged is a lady of substance, an ideal daughter and sister, and a wise businesswoman.

Rufa Mae has invested her hard-earned money on a beauty parlor, boutique, and money-exchange shop, realizing show biz is not forever.

She's got a big heart, too. She wants a good future for her family, providing for the education of her relatives.

The "Booba" tag is understandable, since Rufa Mae has played a dumb belle on TV and the big screen, incidentally winning awards along the way.

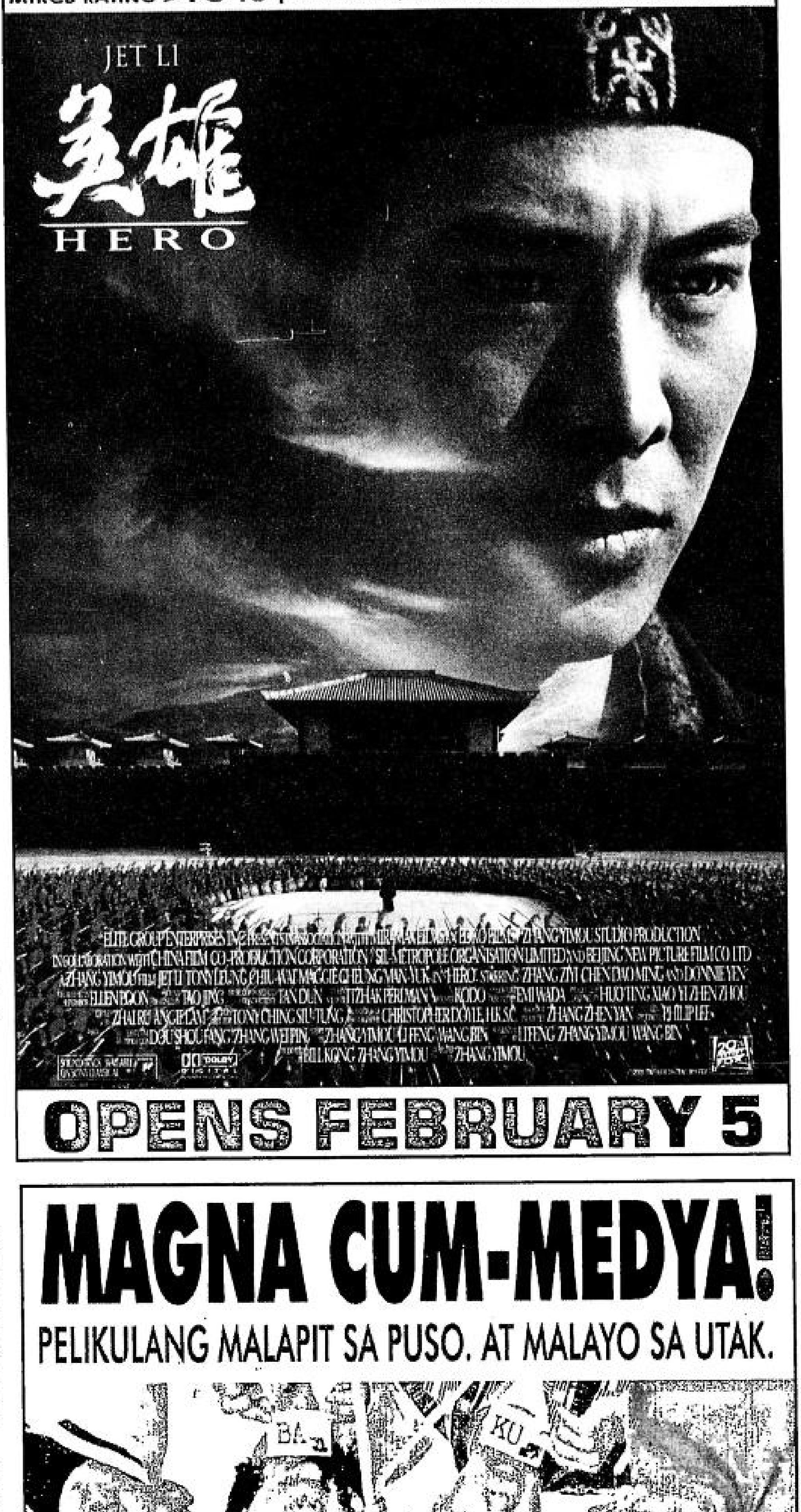
But ask Rufa Mae on anything as Inday did, and the sexy actress will surely give intelligent answers.

She also talks about the men she has been linked to such as Rudy Fernandez, Bong Revilla, Mikey Arroyo and Dingdong Avanzado.

Amid talk shows which capitalize on scandals and controversies, Inday Badiday's "Heart to Heart" stands out for being sober and sensible, but at the same time entertaining.

"Heart to Heart" is produced by Kitchie Benedicto, directed by Bert de Leon and scripted by Bibeth Orteza and Ansel Beluso.

MTRCB RATING ➤ PG 13 | Children below 13 years old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult.

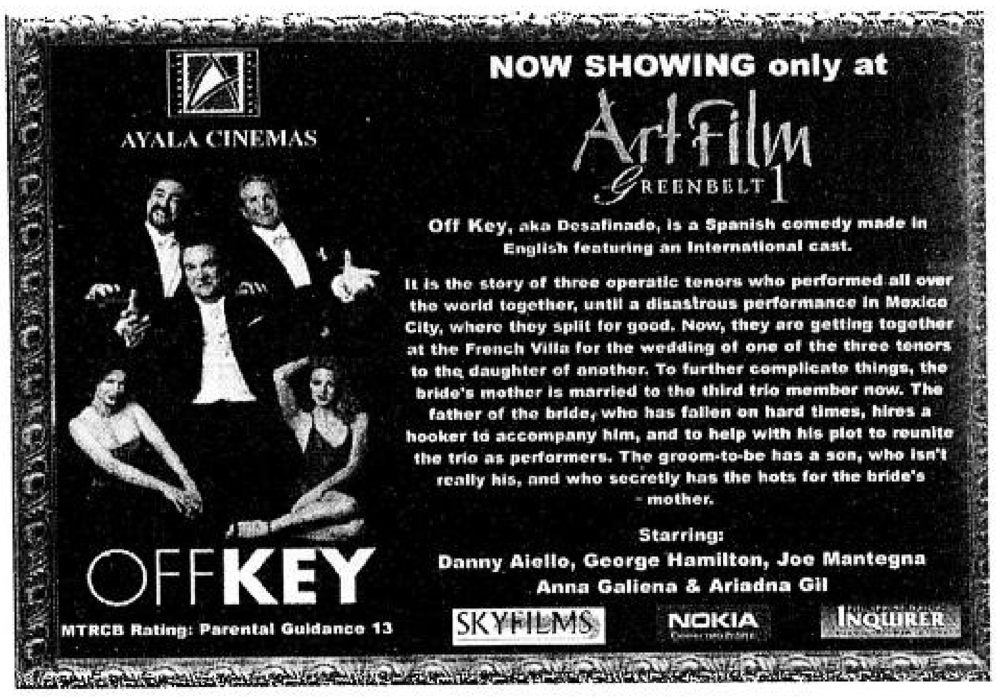

JET LI
英雄
HERO

OPENS FEBRUARY 5

FREE TRIP TO NEW ZEALAND AT AYALA CINEMAS

WIN A FREE TRIP FOR TWO
TO NEW ZEALAND
AT AYALA CINEMAS
WHEN YOU WATCH
THE LORD OF THE RINGS
EXPLORE THE WORLD OF
MIDDLE EARTH
A JOURNEY TO NEW ZEALAND
SEE POSTERS AND LEAFLETS FOR MORE DETAILS
Promo runs from Jan 11 to Feb 9, 2003.
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0102. Series of 2003.

Special Thanks to:
PIONEER MANILA BULLETIN BUFFALO


AYALA CINEMAS

NOW SHOWING only at
ArtFilm GREENBELT 1

Off Key, aka Desafinado, is a Spanish comedy made in English featuring an international cast.

It is the story of three operatic tenors who performed all over the world together, until a disastrous performance in Mexico City, where they split for good. Now, they are getting together at the French Villa for the wedding of one of the three tenors to the daughter of another. To further complicate things, the bride's mother is married to the third trio member now. The father of the bride, who has fallen on hard times, hires a hooker to accompany him, and to help with his plot to reunite the trio as performers. The groom-to-be has a son, who isn't really his, and who secretly has the hots for the bride's mother.

Starring:
Danny Aiello, George Hamilton, Joe Mantegna
Anna Galiena & Ariadna Gil

OFFKEY
MTRCB Rating: Parental Guidance 13
SKYFILMS NOKIA INQUIRER

THE ORIGINAL JAPANESE VERSION IS NOW ON ITS
4TH WEEK!
EXCLUSIVELY AT SM MEGAMALL, SM MANILA,
SM NORTH EDSA, GLORIETTA-1, GALLERIA, ROBINSONS ERMITA

MTRCB RATING ▶ PG-13
Experience Fear
Worse Than Nightmare!!!
Ring
Circle of Evil
"There's a video. If you see it
you have to show it to someone else.
After seven days... you die!

MAGNA CUM-MEDYA!
PELIKULANG MALAPIT SA PUSO. AT MALAYO SA UTAK.

BA
KU
SAL
TAE
AB-noRMaL College
ToDO Na 'yAn! kULaNG Pa 'Yun!
Introducing Jenny Rosendahl
B.A. sa kalokohan,
Masters sa katatawanan!
PATRICIA Javier
MIKEY arroyo
ANDREW E.
OGIE alcasid
RUFA MAE quinto
Directed by Al Tantay
VIVA

PASUKAN NA SA FEB. 12!

MTRCB RATING ▶ R RESTRICTED
Strictly for ADULTS
No one below 18 yrs. may be admitted.

"GUSTO KONG MAG-EKSPERIMENTO..."
raymond bagatsing carlo maceda
katya santos
Sukdulan
hanggang saan
ka sasabay?
hanggang kailan
ka bibigay?

DIRECTED BY MAC C. ALEJANDRE
NOW SHOWING

For sreening times, call 729-7777
Schedules are subject to change without prior notice

AYALA CINEMAS NOW SHOWING

G1 GLORIETTA 1

1	SUKDULAN
2	RING (ORIG. JAPANESE VERSION)
3	CATCH ME IF YOU CAN
4	THE HOT CHICK

G4 GLORIETTA 4

1	THE HOT CHICK
2	THE LORD OF THE RINGS: TWO TOWERS
3	CATCH ME IF YOU CAN 11:30, 2:15, 5:00, 7:45, 10:30
4	FEMME FATALE
5	8 MILE
6	CATCH ME IF YOU CAN
7	BELOW

GB1 GREENBELT 1

1	OFF KEY (EXCLUSIVE) 12:25, 2:45, 5:05, 7:25, 9:45
2	CATCH ME IF YOU CAN 11:30, 2:30, 5:30, 8:30

Onstage
OGIE ALCASID: OA SA PUSO
Feb. 7, 8, 13, 14 & 15

GB3 GREENBELT 3

1	CATCH ME IF YOU CAN 2:05, 4:55, 7:45, 10:35
2	CATCH ME IF YOU CAN 11:45, 2:35, 5:25, 8:15, 11:05
3	CATCH ME IF YOU CAN 12:15, 3:05, 5:55, 8:45, 12:00
4	THE LORD OF THE RINGS: TWO TOWERS 1:10, 4:40, 8:10, 11:30
5	THE HOT CHICK 1:50, 4:10, 6:30, 8:50, 11:00

ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER

1	CATCH ME IF YOU CAN
2	CATCH ME IF YOU CAN
3	THE HOT CHICK
4	THE LORD OF THE RINGS: TWO TOWERS
5	BELOW

Reserve your seats by texting "SURESEATS G4 (or any Ayala Cinemas) and send to 2333
Or log on to www.sureseats.com
GSC: Guaranteed Seats Cinema

MMTA
METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION

MOVIE GUIDE
NOW SHOWING
EMAIL: mmta@asia.com

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72

1 (DOLBY)	BELOW
2 (SDDS)	FEMME FATALE
3 (DTS)	CATCH ME IF YOU CAN
4 GOLD (DTS ES)	CATCH ME IF YOU CAN
5 GOLD (DOLBY EX)	LORD OF THE RING
6 GOLD (SDDS)	THE RING
7 GOLD (DOLBY EX)	HOT CHICK
8	SUKDULAN
9	EIGHT MILE
10	TRY SEVENTEEN

Pearl Plaza Cinemas
(Parañaque) tel. 853.4486

1	
2	
3 (DTS)	ANALYZE THAT
4	
5	
6 (DTS)	ONE HOUR PHOTO
Golden Pearl THX	

Masagana CINEMA 1 2 & 3
(Pasay) tel 833.3290 / 833.3274

1	SUKDULAN
2	CATCH ME IF YOU CAN
3	FEMME FATALE

starmall Movies
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Mandaluyong) tel 724.4986

1	FEMME FATALE
2	BELOW
3	MATAMIS HANGGANG DULO
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL EX)	CATCH ME IF YOU CAN
5	SUKDULAN

METROPOLIS star
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Alabang) tel 850.4285

1	LORD OF THE RING
2	MATAMIS HANGGANG DULO
3	SUKDULAN
4	FEMME FATALE
5	BELOW
6	CATCH ME IF YOU CAN

M star
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Las Pinas)
tel 873.5004

1	BELOW
2	FEMME FATALE

PREMIERE CINEMA THX
(Makati City) tel 751.2010 to13

CATCH ME IF YOU CAN

Center Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1	HALF PAST DEAD
2	HOME ALONG DA RIBER

FCM FAIRVIEW CENTER MALL INC
tel 930.9515

1	RESERVE
2	MALDITA
3	RESERVE

Sunshine
(FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376

1	CATCH ME IF YOU CAN
2	SUKDULAN
3	RESERVE
4	RESERVE

GOTESCO CINEMA

Gotesco City
(Manila) tel 734.8588

1 (SDDS)	CATCH ME IF YOU CAN
4	THE RING
5	TRY SEVENTEEN
6	SUKDULAN
7 (DTS)	BELOW
8 (SDDS)	HOT CHICK
9 (DOLBY)	FEMME FATALE

Gotesco Caloocan
tel 362.3508

2	RESERVE

Gotesco Grand Central
(Caloocan) tel 365.7928

1	FEMME FATALE
2	SUKDULAN
3	SUKDULAN
4 (SDDS)	CATCH ME IF YOU CAN
5	HALF PAST DEAD
6 (DOLBY)	LORD OF THE RING
7 (DTS)	BELOW
8	THE RING
9	MATAMIS HANGGANG DULO

Gotesco Commonwealth
tel 951.0082

1	MATAMIS HANGGANG DULO
2 (SDDS)	BELOW
3 (DTS)	SUKDULAN
4 (DOLBY)	CATCH ME IF YOU CAN
5	THE RING

Gotesco Ortigas
tel 656.6795

1	CATCH ME IF YOU CAN
2	SUKDULAN
3 (DTS)	FEMME FATALE
4	MATAMIS HANGGANG DULO
5 (SDDS)	BELOW

Universal
(Manila) tel 733.2470

1	SUKDULAN

Sampaguita
(Cubao) tel 911.7888

1	SUKDULAN

Dilson
(Manila) tel 734.7724

Dilson	
Lords	
Jennet	BED TIME STORY

MARKETPLACE Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

1	BELOW
2	SUKDULAN
3	CATCH ME IF YOU CAN
4	8 MILE

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
SUPER CINERAMA
tel 733.4238

1 (DOLBY)	CATCH ME IF YOU CAN
2	FEMME FATALE
3	RESERVE
4	SUKDULAN
5	BELOW

FRC Cinema
(Talaba Bacoor Cavite)

1	
2	

Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029

1	SHAOLIN SOCCER
2	SUKDULAN

THE CENTER OF ENTERTAINMENT
Araneta

MALL CINEPLEX 7
tel 911.3101 loc. 821,8242.8400

1	SUKDULAN
2	LOD OF THE RINGS 2
3 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	CATCH ME IF U CAN
4 (SDDS)	FEMME FATALE
5 (DTS)	HOT CHICK
6	TRY SEVENTEEN
7	BELOW

FarmersPlaza CINEMAS
tel 911.3101 loc. 821 8242.8400

1	8 MILE
2	THE RING

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa Laguna)
tel (049) 534.2185 , 534.2198

1	THE RING
2	SUKDULAN
3 (DTS)	CATCH ME IF YOU CAN

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1	THE RING
2 (DTS)	SUKDULAN
3 (DOLBY)	CATCH ME IF YOU CAN
4	BELOW

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146

1	THE SUKDULAN
2 (DOLBY)	BELOW
3 (DTS)	CATCH ME IF YOU CAN
4	THE RING

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

1	THE RING
2	TRY SEVENTEEN
3 (DOLBY)	LORD OF THE RING
4	

Cinema 2000 MetroTown
(Tarlac) tel(045) 982.1729

1	MATAMIS HANGGANG DULO
2	TRAPPED
3 (DOLBY)	LORD OF THE RING
4 (DTS)	ANALYZE THAT

Magic Star Cinema
(Tarlac City) tel (045) 611.4305

1 (DOLBY)	LORD OF THE RING
2 (DTS)	MATAMIS HANGGANG DULO
3	ONE HOUR PHOTO

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS)	LARGADO
2	HAYOP SA GANDA
3 (DTS)	MATAMIS HANGGANG DULO
4	RESERVE

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY)	CATCH ME IF YOU CAN
2	REPLIKATE
3 (DTS)	SUKDULAN
4	MATAMIS HANGGANG DULO
5	EIGHT MILE

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883

1	MATAMIS HANGGANG DULO
2	BELOW
3	CATCH ME IF YOU CAN

Olivarez Los Baños
tel (049) 249.2558

1	BELOW
2	SUKDULAN
3	CATCH ME IF YOU CAN

Mega Center Mall
(Cabanatuan City) tel (044) 463.3283

1	LIKE MIKE
2	THE RING
3 (DTS)	SUKDULAN
4	HALF FAST DEAD

Cabuyao
(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808

1 (DTS)	RESERVE
2 (DTS)	RESERVE

Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

1	MATAMIS HANGGANG DULO
2	SUKDULAN
3	HALF FAST DEAD

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0798

1	BANGKERO
2	REPLICATE
3	SWIM FAN
4	EIGHT MILE

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887-8121

1 (DOLBY EX)	EIGHT MILE
2	SUKDULAN
3 (DTS ES)	CATCH ME IF YOU CAN
4	SWIM FAN

Cine Nepo Mall
(Angeles City) tel (045) 322-3571

1	VAMPS
2	EIGHT MILE
3 (DOLBY)	ANALZE THAT
4 (DTS)	CATCH ME IF YOU CAN

*Movies are subject to change without prior notice

ADVANCED SCREENING THX DOLBY dts SDDS

FESTIVAL
Level 4
Festival Supermall
Filinvest - Alabang
Tel. 85035-71 to 72

catch me if you can
dicaprio
hanks
The true story of a real fake.
NOW SHOWING

SM CINEMA
SM Dial-A-Movie Tel. 833-9999
NOW SHOWING

SM CITY BACOOR
4173868

1	8 MILE
2	THE RING (HOLLYWOOD)
3	BELOW
4	CATCH ME IF YOU CAN
5	LOTR: THE TWO TOWERS
6	SUKDULAN
7	FEMME FATALE
8	HOT CHICK

SM CENTERPOINT
7149522 -7181416

1	SUKDULAN
2	THE RING (HOLLYWOOD)
3	BELOW
4	FEMME FATALE
5	CATCH ME IF YOU CAN
6	HALF PAST DEAD
7	LOTR: THE TWO TOWERS
8	TRY SEVENTEEN
9	8 MILE
10	HOT CHICK

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
9350749

1	SUKDULAN
2	HALF PAST DEAD
3	TRY SEVENTEEN
4	LOTR: THE TWO TOWERS
5	8 MILE
6	FEMME FATALE
7	BELOW
8	CATCH ME IF YOU CAN
9	THE RING (HOLLYWOOD)
10	DIE ANOTHER DAY
11	HOT CHICK
12	SUKDULAN

SM CITY MANILA
5239240

1	HOT CHICK
2	RING (JAPANESE)
3	TRY SEVENTEEN
4	CATCH ME IF YOU CAN
5	BELOW
6	CATCH ME IF YOU CAN
7	LOTR: THE TWO TOWERS
8	THE RING (HOLLYWOOD)
9	SUKDULAN
10	SUKDULAN
11	FEMME FATALE
12	8 MILE

SM MEGAMALL
6331901 • 6329401

1	CATCH ME IF YOU CAN
2	BELOW
3	CATCH ME IF YOU CAN
4	LOTR: THE TWO TOWERS
5	RING (JAPANESE)
6	8 MILE
7	TRY SEVENTEEN
8	THE RING (HOLLYWOOD)
9	SUKDULAN
10	HOT CHICK
11	ONE HOUR PHOTO
12	FEMME FATALE

SM CITY NORTH EDSA
9295452

1	FEMME FATALE
2	8 MILE
3	HOT CHICK
4	SUKDULAN
5	RING (JAPANESE)
6	CATCH ME IF YOU CAN
7	BELOW
8	LOTR: THE TWO TOWERS

SM SOUTHMALL
8066888

1	8 MILE
2	TRY SEVENTEEN
3	BELOW
4	THE RING (HOLLYWOOD)
5	LONG TIME DEAD
6	FEMME FATALE
7	SUKDULAN
8	CATCH ME IF YOU CAN
9	HOT CHICK
10	LOTR: THE TWO TOWERS

SM CITY CEBU
2313876

1	LOTR: THE TWO TOWERS
2	LOTR: THE TWO TOWERS
3	ANALYZE THAT
4	SWIMFAN
5	8 MILE
6	SUKDULAN
7	THE RING (HOLLYWOOD)
8	LOTR: THE TWO TOWERS

SM CITY ILOILO
3209422

1	CHARLOTTE GRAY
2	CLOSED
3	LOTR: THE TWO TOWERS
4	HALF PAST DEAD
5	THE RING (HOLLYWOOD)
6	LOTR: THE TWO TOWERS
7	CLOSED
8	SUKDULAN

SM CITY PAMPANGA
7128015

1	CATCH ME IF YOU CAN
2	ANALYZE THAT
3	LOTR: THE TWO TOWERS
4	THE RING (HOLLYWOOD)
5	BELOW
6	SUKDULAN

SM SUPER CTR. SUCAT
8294975

1	CATCH ME IF YOU CAN
2	BELOW
3	SUKDULAN
4	THE RING (HOLLYWOOD)

SM CINEMA TUTUBAN
2514302

1	CATCH ME IF YOU CAN
2	BELOW
3	FEMME FATALE
4	SUKDULAN

SM CITY DAVAO
2976998

1	HALF PAST DEAD
2	SUKDULAN
3	MY BIG FAT GREEK WEDDING
4	HOT CHICK
5	CATCH ME IF YOU CAN
6	BELOW

SM BICUTAN
776-3055

1	BELOW
2	SUKDULAN
3	CATCH ME IF YOU CAN
4	THE RING (HOLLYWOOD)

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO
859-2884

1	LOTR: THE TWO TOWERS
2	SUKDULAN
3	ANALYZE THAT
4	LOTR: THE TWO TOWERS

THE PODIUM CINEMA
18 ADB Avenue Ortigas Center Mandaluyong City
633-8976

1	ONE HOUR PHOTO 12:05 FS/12:35 MF/2:40/4:45/6:50/8:55/ 10:30 LFS/11:00 LMF/12:35 END
2	CATCH ME IF YOU CAN 10:40 FS/11:10 MF/1:55/4:40/7:25/ 9:45 LFS/10:10 LMF/12:30 END

LATE NIGHT SCREENING DURING FRIDAYS AND SATURDAYS
Matinee : P100.00 • Screening until 5pm • Monday thru Friday
Regular Rate . P120.00 • After 5pm • Saturday • Sunday • Holidays (Reserved Seating)

Movies are subject to change without prior notice

MOVIEWORLD CINEMAS
@ Robinsons Malls
call-a-movie: 536- 7812
NOW SHOWING

Galleria
632- 9115- 16
633- 7641 loc. 279

THX	CATCH ME IF YOU CAN 10:30 AM (MF); 1:15 PM 4:00 PM; 6:45 & 9:30 LMF
2	CATCH ME IF YOU CAN
3	BELOW
4	FEMME FETALE
5	SUKDULAN
6	LORD OF THE RINGS II
7	8 MILE
8	THE RING (US VERSION)
9	RING (JAPANESE VERSION)
10	HOT CHICK

MATINEE PRICE: P90 THX cinema / P75 Ilevel cinemas
Mon.- Fri. / 10am- 4pm (EXCEPT HOLIDAYS)

Ermita
536 -7809- 12

1	CATCH ME IF YOU CAN
2	FEMME FETALE
3	BELOW
4	RING (JAPANESE VERSION)
5	8 MILE
6	HOT CHICK
7	SUKDULAN

Metro East - Marcos hway
682- 8193 / 8280

1	THE RING (US VERSION)
2	LORD OF THE RINGS II
3	CATCH ME IF YOU CAN
4	BELOW
5	HOT CHICK
6	FEMME FETALE
7	8 MILE
8	SUKDULAN

Novaliches
935- 3229 - 30

1	LORD OF THE RINGS II
2	THE RING (US VERSION)
3	HOT CHICK
4	SUKDULAN
5	FEMME FETALE
6	8 MILE
7	BELOW
8	CATCH ME IF YOU CAN

Malabon Citisquare
288-0985 / 288-2575

1	MATAMIS HANGGANG DULO
2	CATCH ME IF YOU CAN
3	SUKDULAN
4	FEMME FATALE

Star Mills- Sn. Fernando, Pamp.
875- 1927
961- 5318 / 5270

1	THE RING (US VERSION)
2	SUKDULAN
3	ANALYZE THAT
4	BELOW
5	CATCH ME IF YOU CAN
6	HOT CHICK

Imus
471- 8188 / 875- 3838

1	FEMME FETALE
2	8 MILE
3	BELOW
4	THE RING (US VERSION)
5	CATCH ME IF YOU CAN
6	SUKDULAN

Sta. Rosa Laguna
049-8370907

1	CATCH ME IF YOU CAN
2	BELOW
3	SUKDULAN
4	THE RING (US VERSION)
5	ONE HOUR PHOTO

Bacolod
441- 0453 / 0459

1	LORD OF THE RINGS II
2	BELOW
3	LORD OF THE RINGS II
4	HALF PAST DEAD
5	THE RING (US VERSION)
6	8 MILE

Iloilo
336- 8077 - 78

1	LORD OF THE RING II
2	HALF PAST DEAD
3	SUKDULAN
4	LORD OF THE RING II
5	CHARLOTTE GRAY
6	THE RING (US VERSION)

MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

Top local artists guest in Ronan Keating show

SEGUERRA

MEJARES

KYLA

WHAT does a musical artist need to succeed?

Talent is a must. Charm, mystery and appeal will help. To have one of these will make you good. To have all will make you part of a select group of performers who makes our music industry shine.

Luke Mejares has earned the approval and admiration of music lovers through his soulful singing style. He was introduced to the industry as the frontman of South Border.

After giving life to several hit singles and winning the best vocal performer award in the Katha Music Awards in 2001, Luke is now exploring the other corners of the industry as a solo artist.

Although his name is synonymous to R&B, Luke can draw a crowd by singing ballads and dance songs.

Kyla is the voice behind the hit singles "Hanggang Ngayon" and "I Feel for You." Her single "Hanggang Ngayon" was released with a music video awarded by MTV Pilipinas and Awit Awards as best music video in 2001. That same year, MTV Pilipinas also named her best new artist and South East Asia Viewers Choice Awardee.

Last Jan. 24, Kyla was chosen to be part of the MTV Asia Awards in Singapore, where she had the privilege of sharing the stage with UK's boy group Blue.

The vocal sextet The CompanY continues to produce beautiful music that withstands fleeting time and shifting trends after 18 years. Their repertoire includes pop, mainstream jazz, dance, R&B among others.

More than their cover versions, The CompanY is loved for their original songs like "Everlasting Love," "Now That I Have You" and "Muntik na Kitang Minahal."

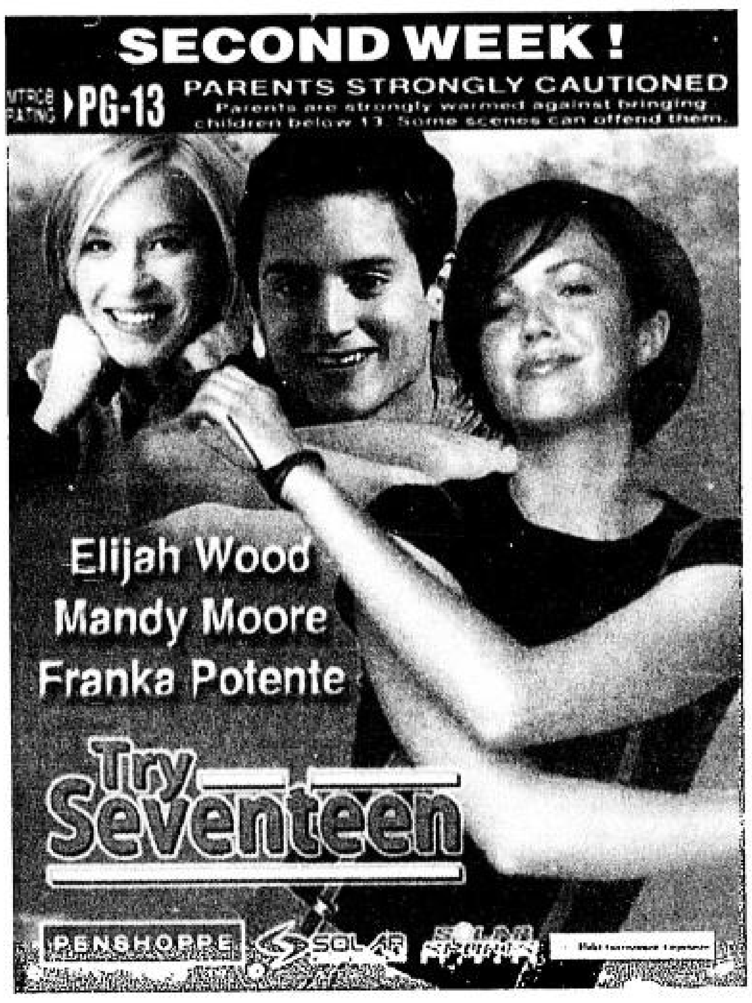
Aiza Seguerra, who started out as a child star on TV's "Eat Bulaga," could carry a tune even when she was still young. But to have her own album was a different question.

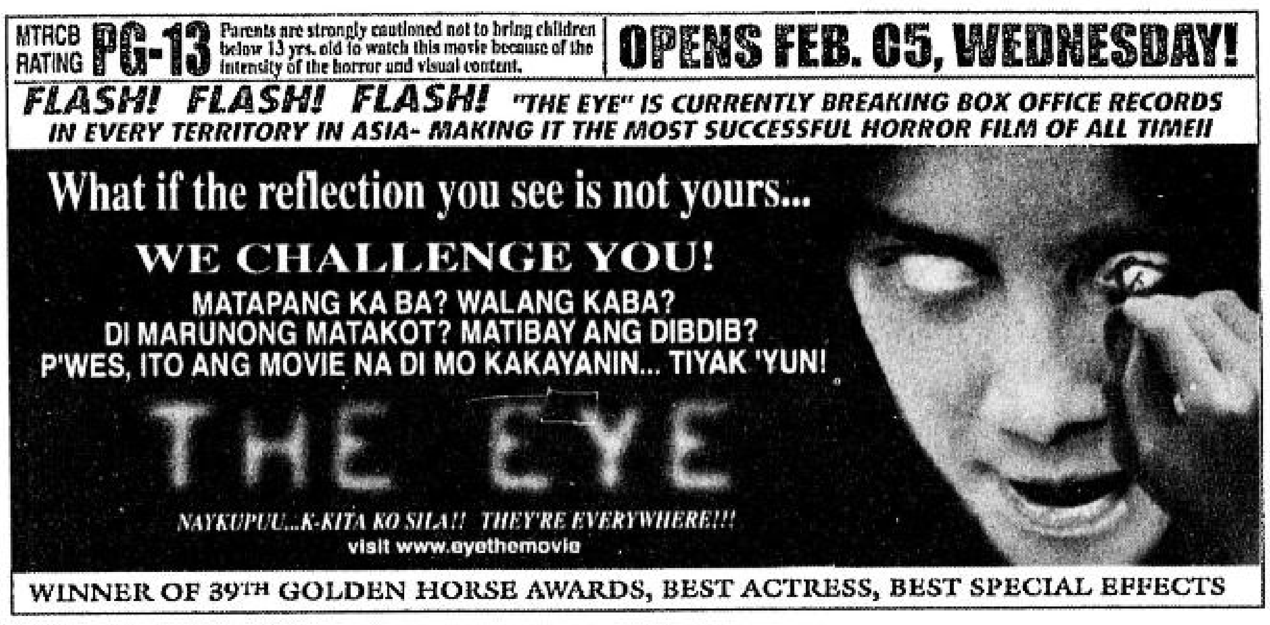
All it took was the phenomenal hit, "Pagdating ng Panahon," to erase all doubts. The album merited a quintuple-platinum record award and gave Aiza an Awit Award for best performance by a female recording artist in 2002.

Aiza continues to make waves in the music industry, singing songs that talk about life and love's magic.

Luke Mejares, Kyla, Aiza Seguerra and The CompanY will guest in Ronan Keating's "Destination" Manila concert on Feb. 13 at the Araneta Coliseum.

Tickets are available at all SM Ticketnet outlets or call 911-5555.


SECOND WEEK!
MTRCB RATING PG-13 PARENTS STRONGLY CAUTIONED
Parents are strongly warned against bringing children below 13. Some scenes can offend them.
Elijah Wood
Mandy Moore
Franka Potente
Try Seventeen
PENSHOPPE SOLAR


MTRCB RATING PG-13 Parents are strongly cautioned not to bring children below 13 yrs. old to watch this movie because of the intensity of the horror and visual content.
OPENS FEB. 05, WEDNESDAY!
FLASH! FLASH! FLASH! "THE EYE" IS CURRENTLY BREAKING BOX OFFICE RECORDS IN EVERY TERRITORY IN ASIA- MAKING IT THE MOST SUCCESSFUL HORROR FILM OF ALL TIME!!
What if the reflection you see is not yours...
WE CHALLENGE YOU!
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DI MARUNONG MATAKOT? MATIBAY ANG DIBDIB?
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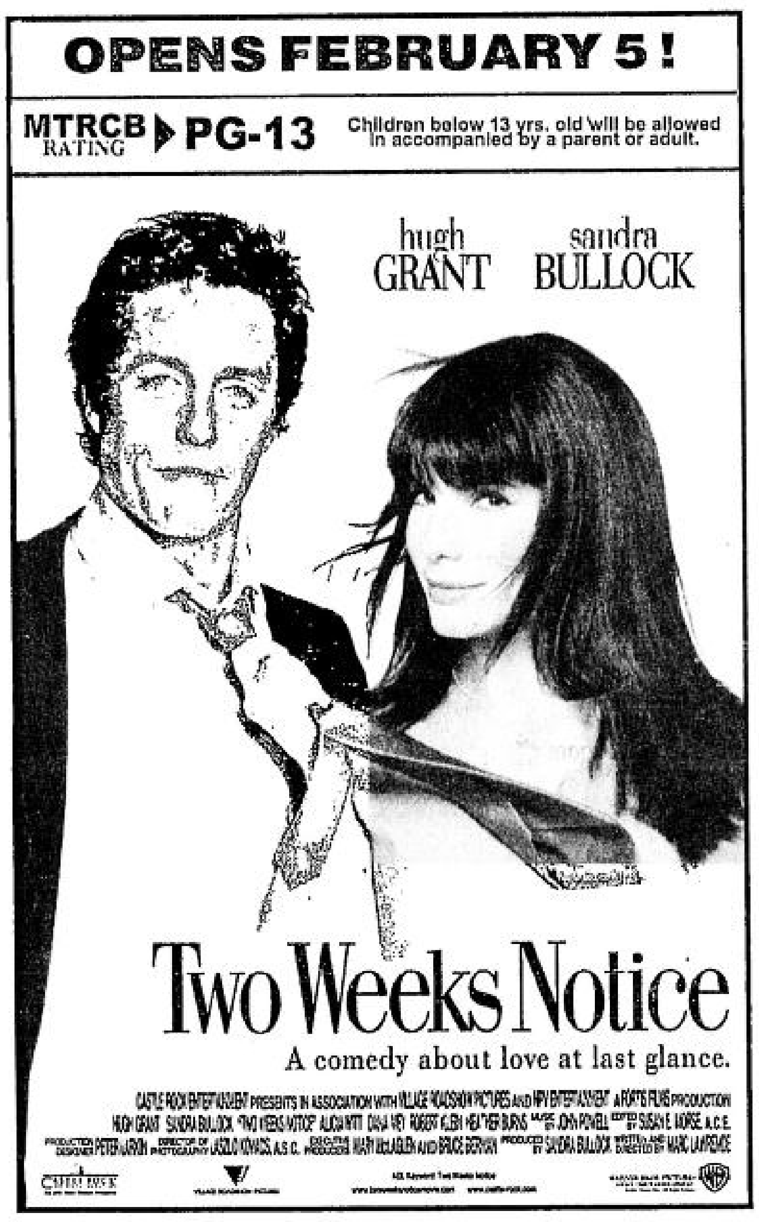
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ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

ALI MALL CINEPLEX 7	
Ali 1	SUKDULAN
Ali 2	LOD OF THE RINGS 2
Ali 3	CATCH ME IF U CAN
Ali 4	FEMME FATALE
Ali 5	HOT CHICK
Ali 6	TRY SEVENTEEN
Ali 7	BELOW
FARMERS PLAZA CINEMAS	
Farmers 1	8 MILE
Farmers 2	THE RING
ARANETA COLISEUM	
FEB 3 & 5	NCA 7 COCK DERBY
FEB 8	LANI MISALUCHA CONCERT
FEB 15	ABBA TRIBUTE CONCERT
ELEPHANT WORLD	
FEB 2	3 PM / 5 PM
FEB 4	10 AM / 3 PM
FEB 5	10 AM / 3 PM

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	BIYAHERA / POSSESSION
ODEON	FEMME FATAL
ODEON-2	SAMBAHIN ANG PURI / TUKAAN
ROBEN	SUKDULAN
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	RED DRAGON / TRAP
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET A	SUKDULAN
CORONET B	DERAITED / BUSS FOR PLEASURE
QUEZON-1	MATAMIS HANGGANG DULO
REMAR	SUKDULAN
REMAR-2	MATAMIS HANGGANG DULO
NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	SUKDULAN
B	
C	
MANDALUYONG CITY	
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CINEMA-1	UK FILM FESTIVAL
CINEMA-2	CATCH ME IF YOU CAN
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	TRY SEVENTEEN
CINEMA-2	MATAMIS HANGGANG DULO
CINEMA-3	8 MILE
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	LORD OF THE RINGS 2
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	ONE HOUR PHOTO
CINEMA-6	LASTIKMAN
CINEMA-7	BANGKERO
CINEMA-8	CATCH ME IF YOU CAN
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	CATCH ME IF YOU CAN
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	BELOW
CINEMA-11(SDDS)	FEMME FATALLE
CINEMA-12	SUKDULAN
CINEMA-14	HOT CHICK
CINEMA-15	THE RING
LORES	
CINEMA 2	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
NE CINEMAGIC - CABANATUAN	
CINEMA 1	DIE ANOTHER DAY
CINEMA 2	BAHID
CINEMA 3	HARRY POTTER
CINEMA 4	CHANGING LNES
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
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HOT CHICK P13 12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00	BELOW P13 12:00, 2:15, 4:30, 6:45, 9:00	CATCH ME IF YOU CAN P13 11:10,2:00,4:50, 7:40,10:30

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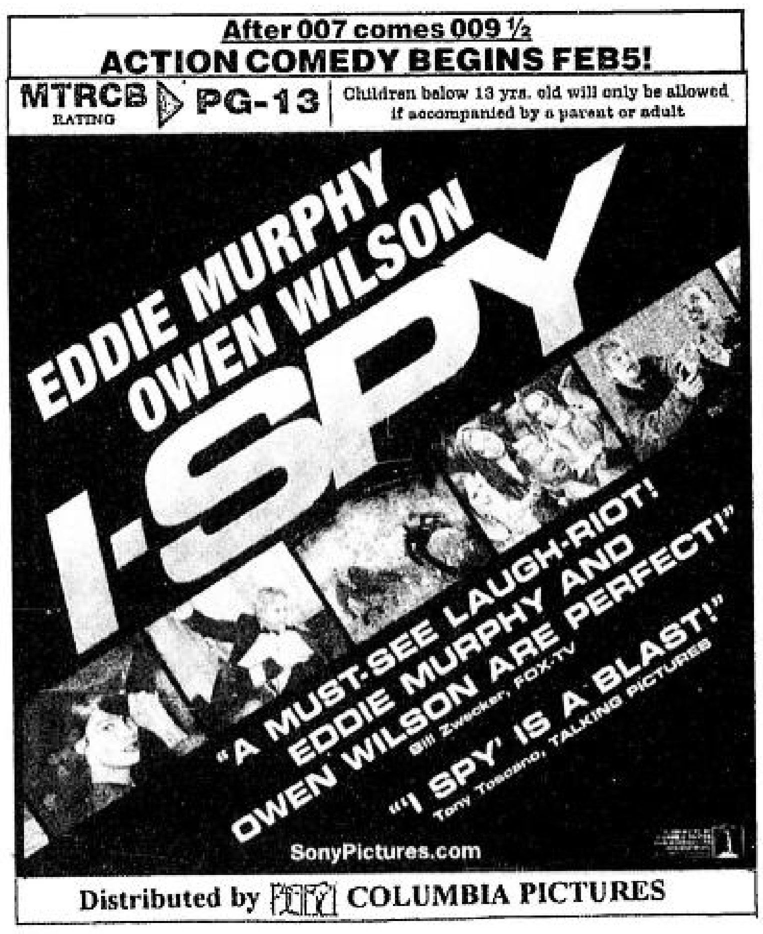
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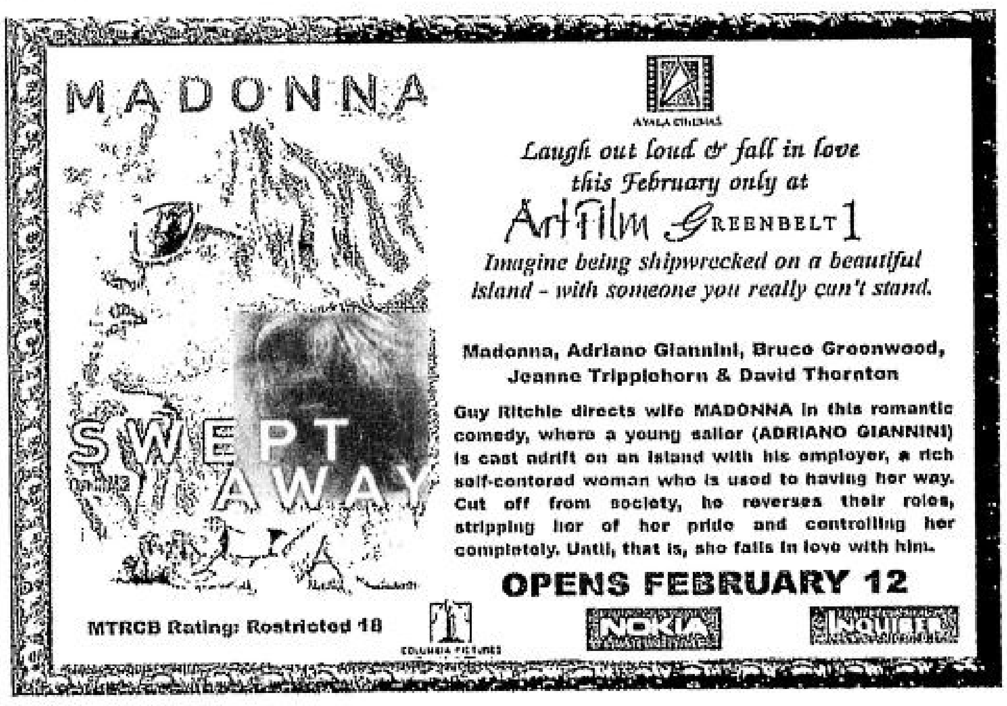
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OPENS FEBRUARY 12
MTRCB Rating: Restricted 18
COLUMBIA PICTURES
NOKIA

Coffee firm conducts tour of Barako's future

By Mei Magsino
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

TAGAYTAY CITY—MORE Filipinos are heeding the urgent call to save the Barako coffee as evidenced by the huge turnout during the recent coffee farm visit organized by the Figaro Foundation.

More than a hundred coffee lovers responded to the foundation's call to revive the dying Barako coffee strain that is the pride and joy of the local coffee growing industry.

The tour, which started at 8 a.m. in this city, went to the Mendez farm in Barangay Palocpoc of Mendez town to show the traditional processing methods for coffee.

This was followed by a tour of the Barako Pilot farm in Barangay Dagatan, at the coffee town of Amadeo.

The group then went to Nicky Matti's horse farm amid 6 hectares of coffee creek farm in Silang, and apiculturist Joel Magsaysay's Ilogmaria honeybee farm surrounded by seven hectares of coffee farms, also in Silang.

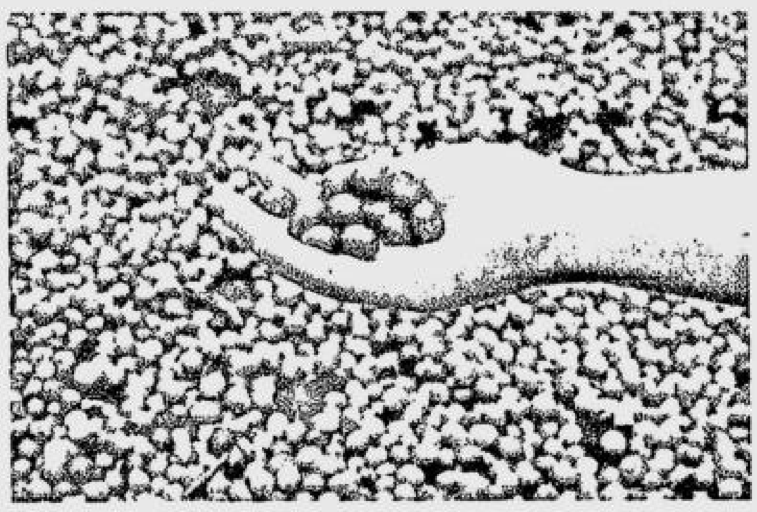
The tour, which was done in the middle of the worsening crisis of the dying coffee industry, was intended to make people aware of the present situation of the industry that used to be a source of pride for the Philippines.

"This is our way of telling the people that there is hope for the coffee industry," Figaro Foundation director Chit Juan said.

"This tour is also an educational tour to the city people who thought that coffee comes from the mug," he added.

PHOTOS BY MEI MAGSINO

MENDEZ town agriculturist shows how the Robusta coffee is roasted the traditional way. To her right is Figaro CEO Chit Juan. Coffee roasted the traditional way is roasted on a cast iron wok over low woodfire to ensure even heat and better flavor.


RIPE coffee berries ready for harvest can be determined through their size and color.

From tree to coffee mug

At the Mendez farm, town agriculturist Myrna Rodring showed the participants the traditional way of processing coffee.

From the trees, the ripe red and green beans are picked by hand and dried under the heat of the sun.

The dried beans are then tested if ready for hulling. A dried coffee bean is ready for hulling when it produces a ticking sound if shaken. Hulling is the process of peeling the beans.

Traditional method of hulling uses a *lusong* (big, wooden mortar and pestle) where the beans are carefully pounded and peeled.

A *gikin*, which is round screen made of banana leaves, is placed on top of the *lusong* to keep the beans inside while being pounded.

The hulled beans are then placed in a *bilao* used for *tahip*, or the process of separating the hull from the beans.

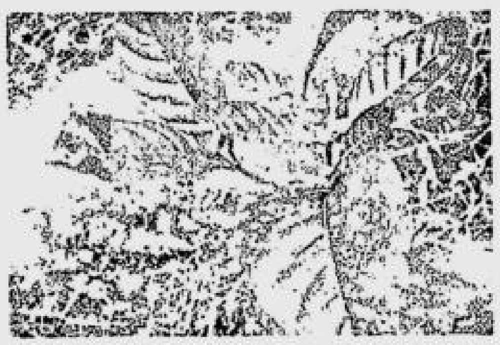
The beans are then roasted in a cast-iron wok over low wood fire. When roasted to brown color, the beans are washed and then roasted again.

Only then can the beans be ready for grinding and sifting.

After the sifting, the powdered coffee can be brewed in a pot with boiling water.

The laborious process before the coffee can be poured into the waiting coffee mugs takes two hours and is drank in less than five minutes.

"In the old times, we used to brew coffee with gin," Rodring said, "that's like the Irish coffee."


ONE of the two thousand barako seedlings at the Barako Farm in the coffee town of Amadeo, Cavite, is already infected by the coffeerust.

Coffee trees hold water table

According to Dr. Alejandro Mojica, chief and technology adviser of the National Coffee Development Board, Cavite's nine upland towns used to be planted with coffee.

"About 80 percent of the residents of the nine upland towns of Silang, Maragondon, Magallanes, Tagaytay City, Alfonso, General Aguinaldo, Indang, Amadeo, and Mendez used to be planted with coffee. In fact, the coffee trees held the water table of those towns," Mojica said, "and the big houses of the rich coffee traders were built by the coffee industry. Coffee used to be a way of life here."

But the trade liberalization and the influx of imported coffee beans from Vietnam and Brazil, which lowered the price of the coffee beans, forced the coffee farmers to stop growing coffee.

Out of the nine towns where coffee trees used to abound, only seven hectares remain planted with coffee trees.

"Our biggest competitor even in the local market is Vietnam coffee," Mojica said, "Vietnam used to produce only 50,000 to 70,000 metric tons of coffee four years ago. But now, it produces 9 million metric tons of coffee beans. That's because the coffee planters there are supported by the government. And we are left so very far behind."

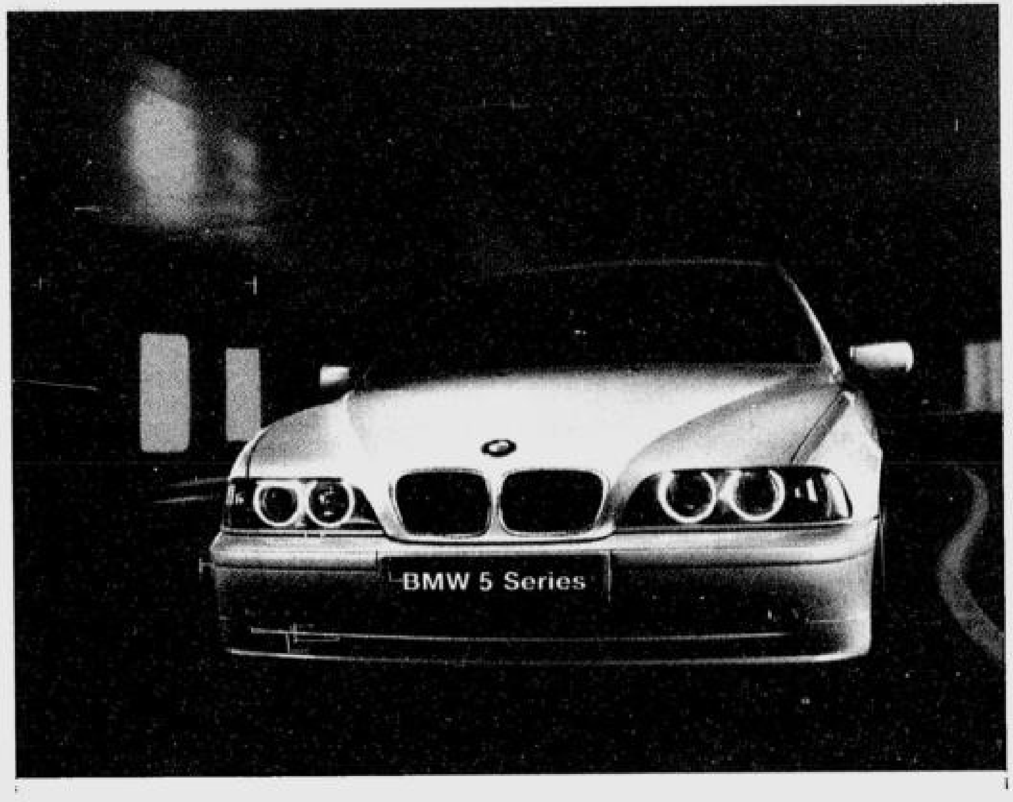
At the coffee creek farms, farm-owner Nicky Matti said they used to harvest about 2,000 cans of coffee beans in the 6-hectare coffee plantation. But now, they could harvest only 200 cans. A can contain 10 kilograms of coffee beans.

"With the low price of coffee now compared with the high price of maintaining the coffee farm, the planters think it's not worth raising coffee anymore," Matti said, "the coffee planters need government support."

Reviving the industry

According to Mojica, the National Coffee Board, which is now on the race to revive the coffee industry, has provided a P300-million budget from Quedancor that the coffee farmers could loan through the Land Bank of the Philippines.

COFFEE/ B3



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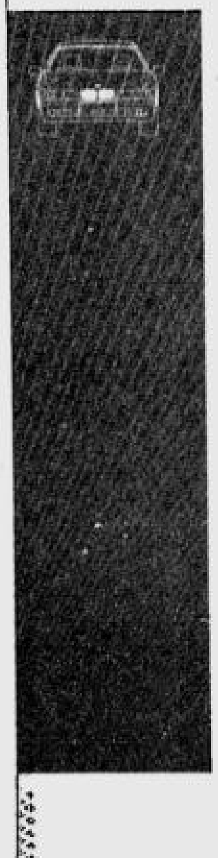

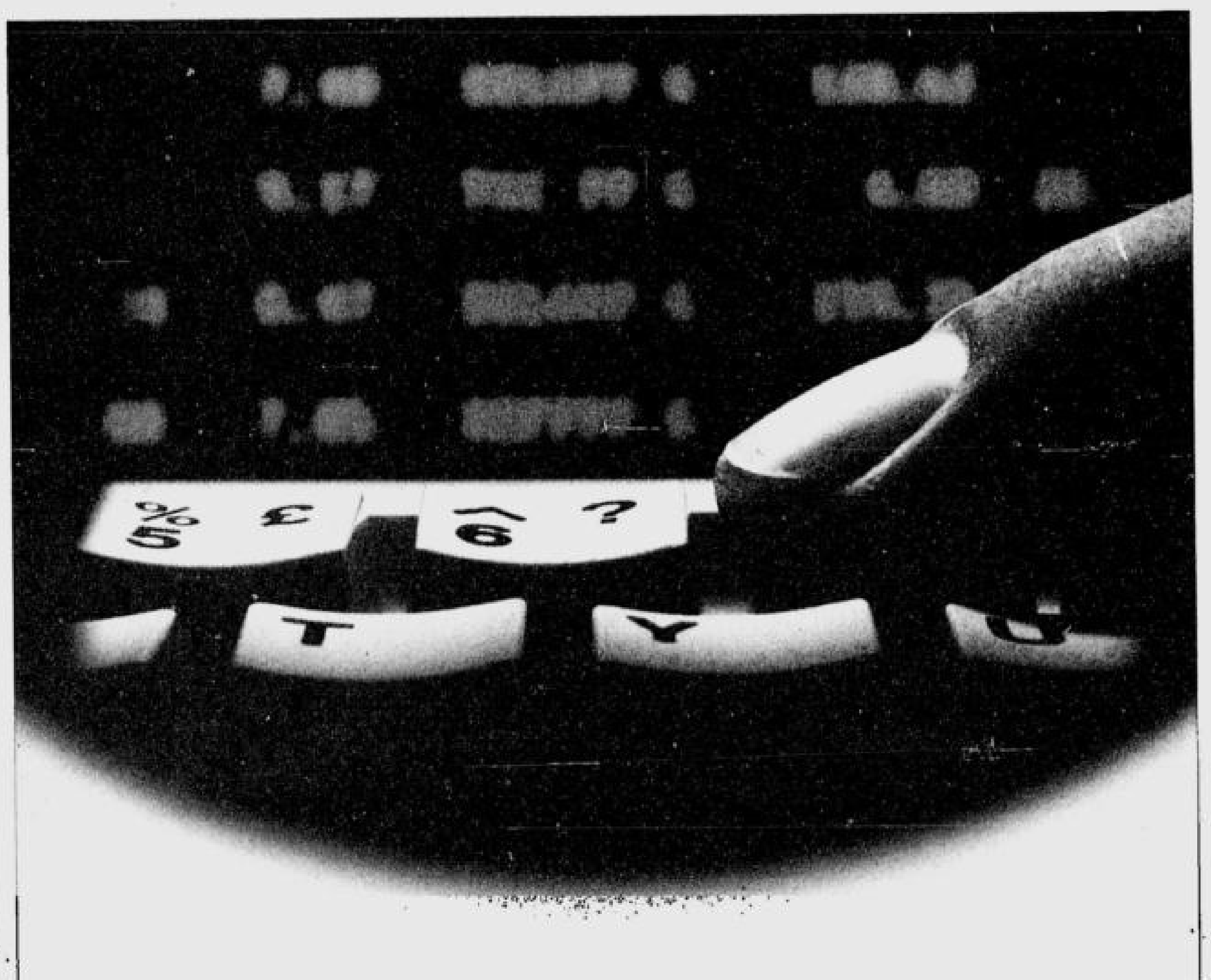

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Sunday LIFES family
Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso

SA
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SISIKAT!

GRADE 4 students show enthusiasm for SAS' read-a-thon program.

PHOTOS BY RANDY HORMILLOSA

A literacy campaign starts with the young to build a new generation of readers

READING STRIKES BACK

By Anne A. Jambora

IN THIS frenzied world of movie magic, high-tech gizmos and cable television, good old-fashioned book reading is a habit lost on children. How can pages upon pages of text-heavy books compete with visually appealing gadgetry?

Determined to "build a nation of readers," Sa Aklat Sisikat Foundation Inc. (SAS) launched its third reading program in the country in all the 16 public elementary schools in Muntinlupa City. During the 31-day reading program, Grade 4 students are tasked to read contemporary literature in English and Tagalog-written, illustrated and published by Filipinos. Hopefully, at the end of the program, children will have developed the habit of reading.

"[Reading] is every child's right, [and] it nurtures the Filipino child's intellectual, ethical and social development," says SAS president Margarita Delgado.

All 60 books donated by the SAS are carefully screened so that only those books that promote Filipino and family values are selected. SAS believes that Grade 4 students are properly equipped to develop the reading habit, when children move from learning letters and words to reading comprehension.

Functional literacy

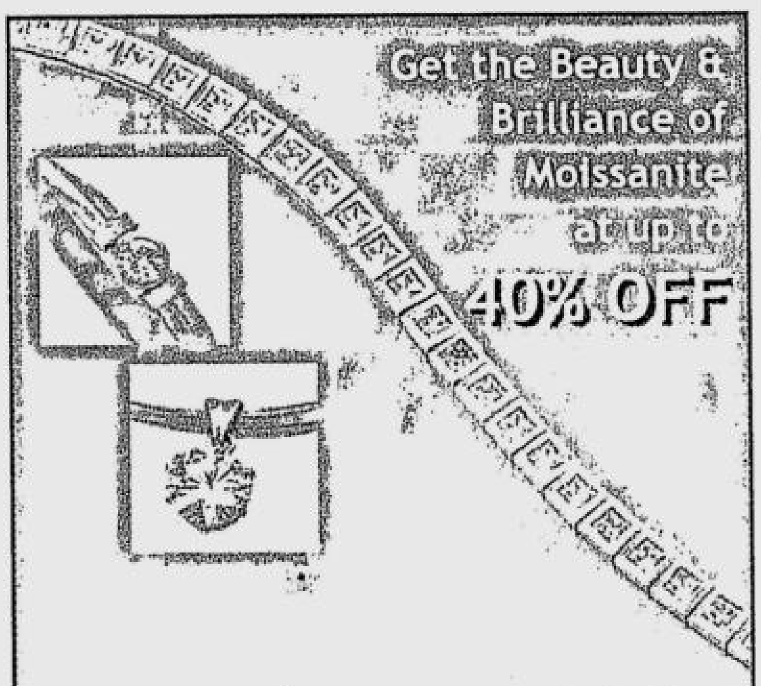
Filipinos may have a high literacy rate at 96.4 percent, but their functional literacy—the use of reading and writing in everyday life to promote growth and development—is not as high. "Reading is the mother of all skills," says Dr. Corazon D. Santiago, director IV, DepEd-NCR. Due to this dilemma, Santiago says Filipino students are not reflective and lack analytical skills.

Another problem is the teachers' lack of enthusiasm to teach. Santiago says teachers must genuinely love their students and show interest in what their students are doing.

Delgado poses a challenge to principals and teachers: "*Ang pagbabasa ay sandata laban sa kahirapan*. Know that you are the foundation upon which the next generation of Filipinos and the future of this country rests."

Delgado says SAS is encouraged to know that Muntinlupa shares its dream. "Muntinlupa is professional, consistent and has clear objectives, [similar to SAS]," Delgado says. "They walk the way they talk. It would be nice to see more local governments like this."

READING/ C3



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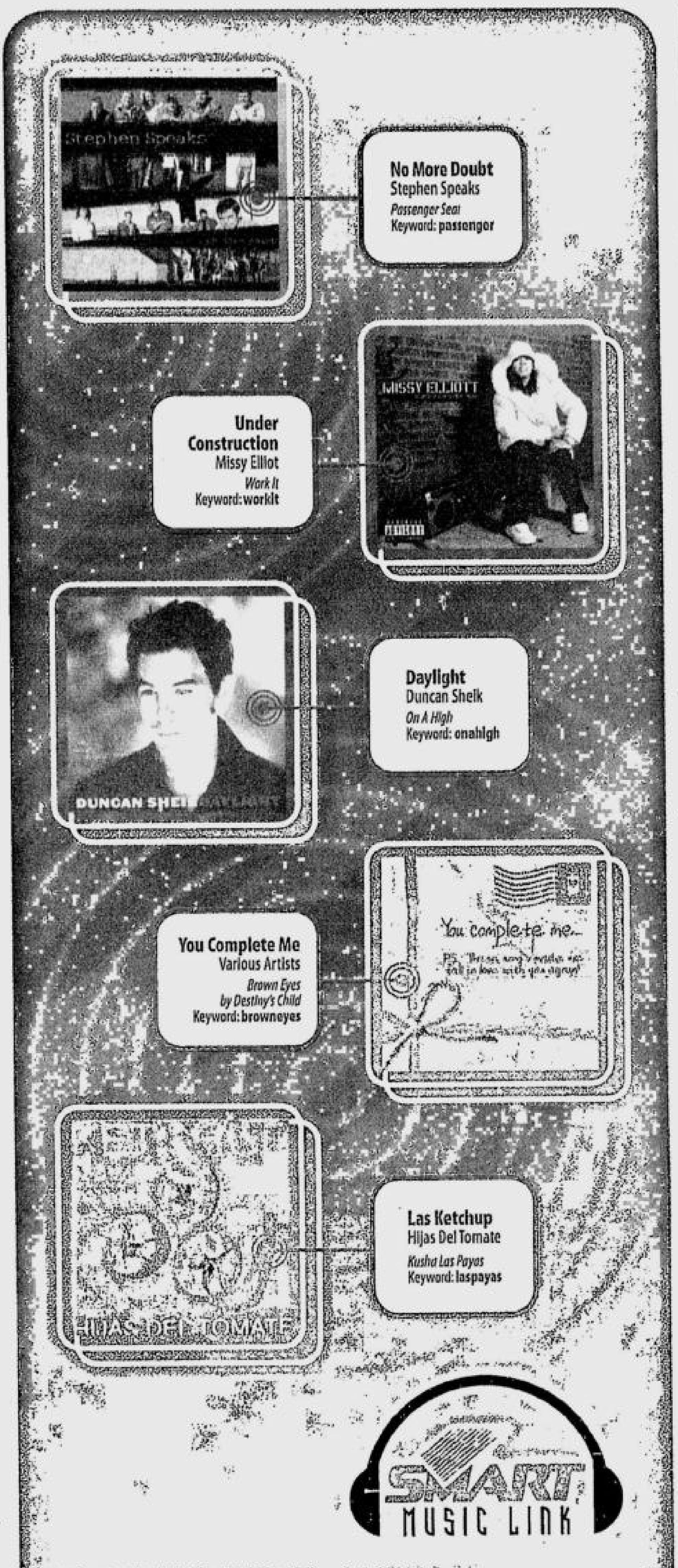


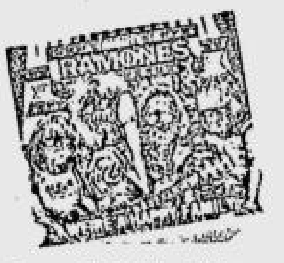
No More Doubt
Stephen Speaks
Passenger Seat
Keyword: passenger

Under Construction
Missy Elliot
Work It
Keyword: workit

Daylight
Duncan Sheik
On A High
Keyword: onahigh

You Complete Me
Various Artists
Brown Eyes by Destiny's Child
Keyword: browneyes

Las Ketchup
Hijas Del Tomate
Kusha Las Payas
Keyword: laspayas



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2	Greatest Hits: An Audio Visual Anthology	Regine Velasquez	
3	This Is Me... Then	Jennifer Lopez	
4	Room For Squares: Limited Edition	John Mayer	
5	Only Selfless Love 2	Various Artists	
6	Josh Groban	Josh Groban	
7	8 Mile - OST	Eminem	
8	It Had To Be You... The Great American Songbook	Rod Stewart	
9	You Had Me At Hello	Various Artists	
10	Come Away With Me	Norah Jones	
11	Shaman	Santana	keyword: *urnnykind*
12	You Complete Me	Various Artists	keyword: *browneyes*
13	Prelude: Best Of	Charlotte Church	keyword: *wavehello*
14	Duets	Barbra Streisand	keyword: *knowfluv*
15	Beyond Words: Music Of Gary Valenciano	Various Artists	
16	Under Construction	Missy Elliot	keyword: *workit*
17	Masters Of Chant Chapter III	Gregorian	
18	Hijas Del Tomate	Las Ketchup	keyword: *laspayas* *ketzupsong*
19	Let Go	Avril Lavigne	
20	Rivermaya: Live & Acoustic	Rivermaya	
21	Chicago Story: Complete Greatest Hits	Chicago	
22	More Than You Think You Are	Matchbox 20	
23	Best Of 1990-2000	U2	
24	Lady Sings The Blues	Various Artists	keyword: *makuluvme*
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Caviteños celebrate feast of Our Lady of Candelaria

PURELY PERSONAL

Josephine Darang

AS the people of Silang, Cavite mark the 418th anniversary of the founding of their church today, they are also celebrating the feast of their their patroness, Our Lady of Candelaria. But she was not called that title in the 17th century. The Jesuits, who built the stone church from 1637 to 1639, called her La Anunciata to celebrate her title as Our Lady of Annunciation.

The original image of the Virgin was found in the mountains surrounding the town in 1640 and the natives honored her in their own fashion—setting up an altar in her honor in the house of the man named Andres, who found her in the mountains. Andres would pray the rosary in front of the image.

But the image would always disappear whenever Andres went to a sinful place so the parish priest suggested that the image be brought to the church. And so it was the people led the procession to the church, walking down from the mountains to the town bringing the image of Our Lady.

The moment she was enthroned at the main altar, Our Lady took care of the people's needs, consoled them in their miseries and cured their sick. Miracles began to happen in Silang and it is said that the town was saved from the ravages of World War II.

The news spread in the neighboring towns and even outside of Cavite. People would come to her during her feast day to seek help and they would come back to thank her for answered prayers.

The parish church of Silang is one of the rare churches that has a hagiography of saints in its main altar with the Virgin at the center. The Jesuits began to build this in 1663.

The first missionaries, however, in Silang were the Franciscans who came in 1595. They also were in the towns of Carmona and Ternate, even the island of Marinduque.

After the Jesuits, the secular clergy took over in 1769 followed by the Augustinian Recollects in 1853. The other religious orders and priests who came were as follows: Filipino clergy—1898 to 1910; Congregation of the Immaculate Heart of Mary (CICM)—1910-1913; Diocesan clergy—1913-1936; Society of St. Columban—1936-1978; Filipino clergy—1978 to the present. Fr. Cornelio Matanguihan is the parish priest. Today, at 9:30 a.m., a fiesta Mass will be celebrated by Bishop Manuel Sobreviñas, while the High Mass on Feb. 3 at 9:30 a.m. will be officiated by Bishop Chito Tagle.

Father Matanguihan led the repair of the church with the help of the Lupon Pagawaing Simbahan. Major repairs and restoration have been done on the choir loft, bell tower, dome-type ceiling, the inside walls and the *retablos*.

Just how I became devoted to Our Lady of Candelaria stemmed from my friendship with the late Albert Seeland, who would go to Silang without fail every Feb. 2. He brought me along, together with Dulce Festin Baybay, who became a devotee, too. Now that Albert is gone, I go with other friends like the Sandejas sisters—Ofelia Poblete and Ginia Rosales.

Presentation of the Child Jesus

Two feasts are being celebrated on Feb. 2—the presentation of the Child Jesus in the temple and Our Lady of Candelaria who carried the Light of the world who is the Child Jesus. The Presentation of the Child Jesus Parish on Aguirre Street, BF Homes, Parañaque will hold a high Mass with Bishop Jesse Mercado presiding at 10:30 a.m. A procession will take place at 5:30 p.m.

In nearby St. Jerome Emiliani Parish, novena Masses are ongoing for the feast of St. Jerome until Feb. 8. A procession takes place on fiesta day, Feb. 9, at 4 p.m., and a High Mass at 5 p.m. Sending me this info is Bro. Eugene Ealdama Jr.

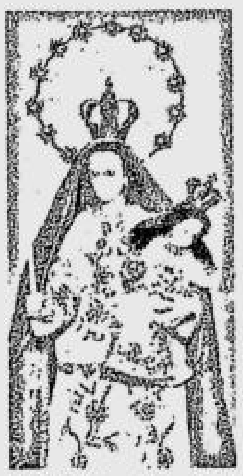
Sto. Niño de Providencia fiesta

The fiesta of Sto. Niño de Providencia on Jan. 27 attracted devotees from as far as Pijuan Street in BF Resort Village to accommodate thousands of people who came as early as 7 a.m. to honor the Sto. Niño. An altar was set up and people lined up to receive the anointing of the miraculous oil from the body of the image by Fr. Pio Lumibao, chaplain of San Beda College; Fr. Basil Apostol of Benedictine Abbey School, and Fr. Aloy Maranan, also of the same school.

A rousing welcome met the Sto. Niño at Mary Mother of the Church Parish where people stood with lit candles when he arrived at 3:30 p.m. The Sto. Niño was brought in a motorcade from His chapel that was attended by a long line of cars.

The church was filled up during the Mass celebrated by Fr. Jerry Habunal, parish priest, together with Fr. Joseph Tashner, SVD; Fr. Fred Reyes, SVD; Fr. Joseph Sou, Fr. Michael Quintana, Fr. John Verghese and Fr. Syd Que.

THE STO. Niño de Providencia on a *carroza* is brought back in a procession to His chapel in BF Resort Village, Parañaque.



OUR Lady of Candelaria, patroness of Silang, Cavite

Servants of the Sto. Niño de Providencia that include Inday Palomo coordinated the offering of flowers and candles during the Offertory. When the Sto. Niño was carried outside for the procession, people milled around Him and waved. With the Air Force Band leading the *caracol*, a long line of people walked back to the chapel where other people waited. They welcomed Him again, waving to Him as the *carroza* of Boy Ponce approached. Even when the image was brought back inside the chapel, people stayed until 12 midnight praying and talking to Him. Lorna Gonzales, who owns the house and chapel, was crying with gratefulness that people came to celebrate the Sto. Niño's feast. Jan. 27, 1992 was the day when the image began to spill oil from His body. The oil is used for healing. Even Bacolod Gov. Joseph Maranon and his wife Aida were there. Overall coordinator was engineer Nonoy Yoshida, with Betsy Reyes, who was miraculously cured of breast cancer as manager of the whole affair.

God Loves anniversary

The God Loves Catholic Charismatic Community marks its 12th year today with activities from 7 a.m.-5 p.m. at the Don Zanoni Memorial Gym of the Society of St. Paul at 7708 St. Paul Road, Makati. Activities include praise songs after registration and breakfast; sharing of experiences after lunch and a Holy Mass at 3 p.m. to be said by Fr. Domie de Guzman, SSP, spiritual director. Call Bro. Ricky Berenguer at 888-3058.

Our Lady of Lourdes feast

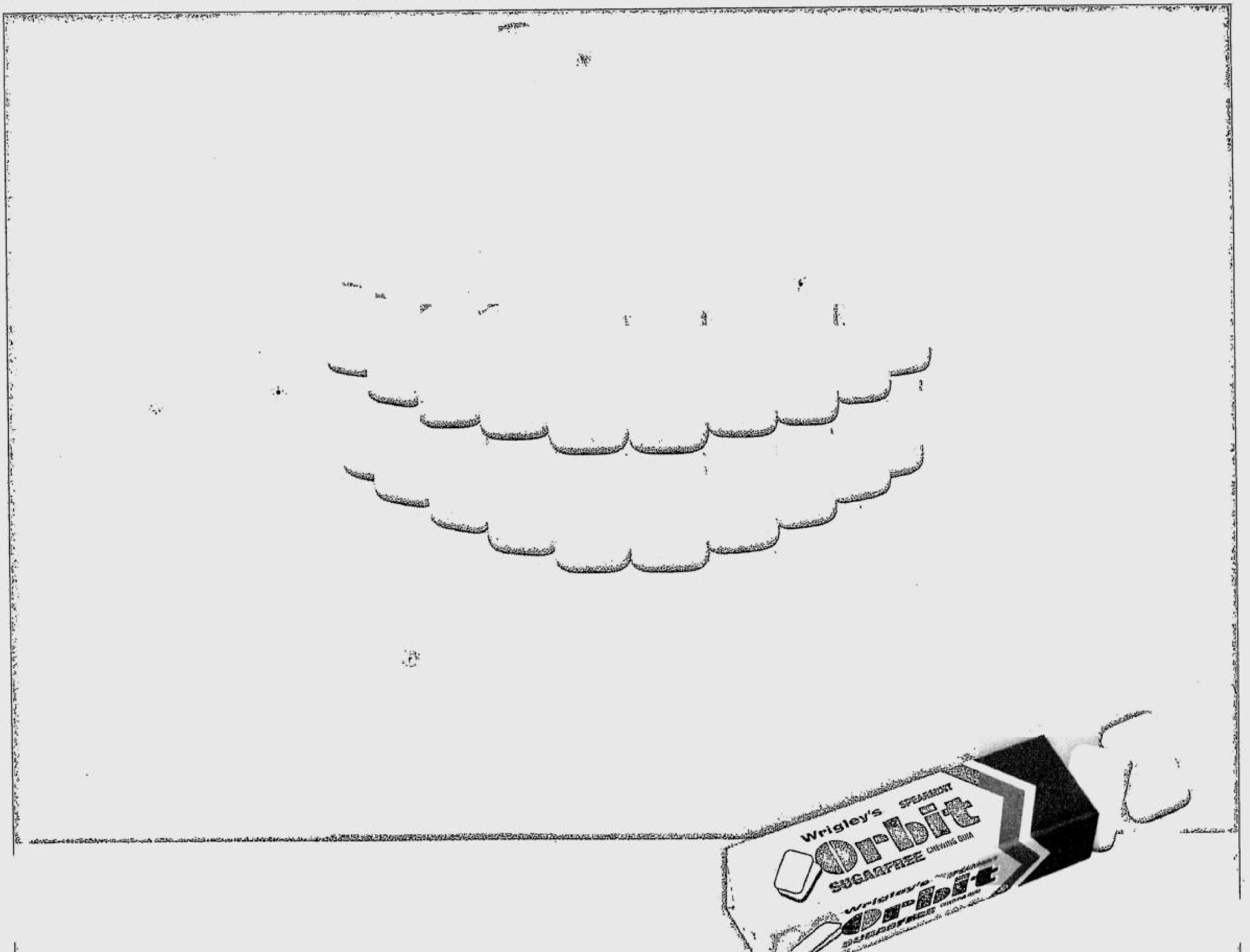
The feast of Our Lady of Lourdes falls on Feb. 11, also called the World Day for the Sick. At the National Shrine of Our Lady of Lourdes in Kanlaon, QC, the healing Mass is set on Feb. 8 at 5 p.m. Bishop Nestor Cariño will be the celebrant.

Today there will be a torch procession at 5:45 p.m., followed by a Holy Mass to be said by Fr. Troy de los Santos, provincial of the OFM-Capuchins in the Philippines.

A Marian exhibit opens at 7 p.m. on the same day. The theme is "Maria Immacualda: Regina Familiaris." Fiesta Mass is on Feb. 11 at 12 nn with Bishop Soc Villegas as celebrant.

Our Lady of Piat

Richard Alvarado from Aparri, Cagayan, told me how Our Lady of Piat has helped him in his life. He would often go to Piat, kneel before the Virgin and pour his heart out. In thanksgiving, he is making this testimony. Those who want *estampita* prayers can write me. Please enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope.



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RECOGNIZED PDA PHILIPPINE DENTAL ASSOCIATION
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Reading strikes back

From page C1

Muntinlupa City Councilor Raul Rosero Corro says the city wants to be known as the center for skills and human resources in the future. "This is a continuing program because we believe education is in partnership not only with the local government but also with nongovernment foundations as well," he says.

Corporate citizens

Corro says that since Mayor Jaime Fresnedi took office in 1998, the city has put up the Science High School and two more public high schools and launched its Adopt-A-School program. "Corporate citizens of Muntinlupa, such as Ayala, Filinvest and Pepsi-Cola, adopted elementary schools and attend to their needs not only in cash, but in other aspects as well, such as building comfort rooms, donating computers and putting up water systems," he says.

Ironically, it takes technology to combat television and other distractions. "We train and retrain teachers on the latest technology on how to create interest in the children for reading," Delgado says. "International School teachers learned it abroad, and now they're passing it on to public school teachers by volunteering with SAS."

Interactive methods such as drawing and games have also been developed to make reading more interesting.

And this is not to say that television is bad; it's too much television that decays the mind. Children just need to develop a love for reading, enough to take time out from the tube to read a book.

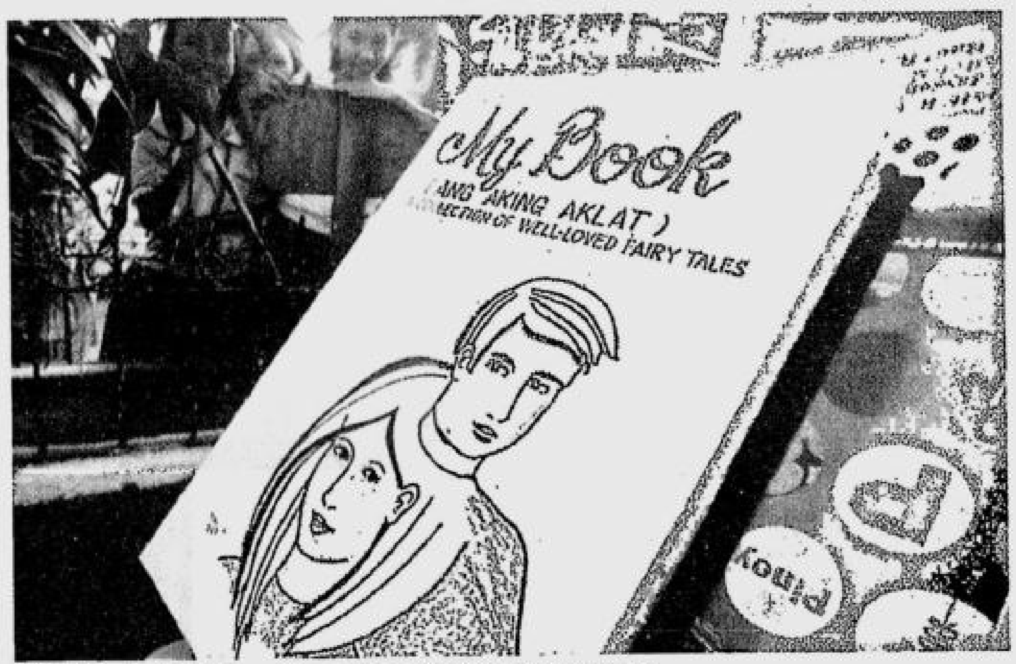
To date, a total of 74 public elementary schools have benefited from the program, with close to 22,000 books distributed.

This year will be a big one for SAS as it will launch more read-a-thons at Bulacan, Pampanga and Makati City.

When the year ends, SAS will have reached 91 elementary schools, 24,100 Grade 4 students and distributed 28,140 books.

For the Muntinlupa program, SAS is supported by Petron Foundation and Bristol Myers Squibb Mead Johnson.

E-mail the author at ajambora@inquirer.com.ph



SIXTY selected Filipino titles will be donated to each school.

Nurses' convention set

THE NATIONAL League of Government Nurses Inc. (NLGN), representing more than 17,000 nurses in various government agencies, offices and health facilities nationwide, will hold its 42nd anniversary and 2003 biennial convention on Feb. 4, 5 and 6 at the following venues: Feb. 4, Elim's Center, Victoria Avenue, Quezon City; Feb. 5, Bayview Hotel; Feb. 6, Malacañang Heroes Hall.

This year's theme, "Celebrating the Filipino Government Nurse," is a fitting tribute to Filipino nurses who choose to work here as public servants amidst the growing and enticing demand for Filipino nurses to work abroad. The forthcoming convention will pursue the welfare of the Filipino government nurse and promote the delivery of quality health, nursing care and other services for the Filipino people.

Call 742-3944.

Computer games showcase at UK education fair

ON Feb. 7 and 8, the British Council, DataBlitz and Complink Computers, will exhibit and demonstrate computer games developed or published in the United Kingdom as a sidelight of the UK Education Fair at the Peninsula Hotel Manila.

Peter Molyneux, head of British video game studio Lionhead, is the man who made the "god complex" a digital reality. Back in 1989, he released a game called Populous, in which you were a tribal deity. You could flatten hills for your people to build villages. By wreaking divine punishment, in the form of floods or earthquakes, upon rival tribes, you could eventually force them to worship you as the one true god. Populous became one of the 10 biggest-selling computer games of all time. It spawned a whole new genre—the "god game." Among his other noted games are Theme Park which he developed with his team in Bull Frog before Electronic Arts bought it, and just recently Black and White developed by LionHead. B&W II, the sequel is set to be released later this year.

With gaming consoles like Playstation II and Xbox getting more and more popular, UK is leading the way in developing games or porting popular PC titles to run on console platforms.

Apart from development, technologies that make games more exciting and engaging are being exported by the UK all over the world.

Among the titles to be demonstrated during the Education Fair are Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets, Lord of the Rings, plus many others. Call Mon Llose or Jansen Mayor at 914-1011 to 14.

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Well-attended reception marks India's 54th Republic Day

AUSTRALIAN Ambassador Ruth Pierce and Lena Hakannson

THAI Ambassador Busba Bunnag, French Ambassador Renee Veyret and Malaysian Ambassador Noor Taufik

DIPLOMATIC SWIRL

By Amiga

JUST before Indian Ambassador **Navrekha Sharma** left for a much delayed and richly deserved vacation, the gates of her residence were thrown open to celebrate India's 54th Republic Day.

The well-attended reception had guests happily milling around buffets of Indian food. Seen among the crowd were consuls and friends **Helen Ong**, **Evie Costa** and **Fortune Ledesma**. Elegant in white was **Melly Ablaza**, together with husband **Louie**, as well as **Paz Yuchengco**, **Margie Villarama**, who's very much into holistic healing, Canadian Ambassador **Robert Collette**, Israeli Ambassador **Irit Ben Abba**, French Ambassador **Renee Veyret**, Romanian Charge d'Affaires **Radu Homescu** and his wife **Georgeta**, **Gemma Cruz Araneta**, **Isabel Wilson**, Portuguese Ambassador **Joao da Silva** and the lovely Ulrike, Ambassador and Mme. **Enrique Syquia**, Myanmar Ambassador and Mme. **U. Tin Htun** and Foreign Affairs Sec. **Blas Ople**.

***

Ongoing until Feb. 9 is the Indian Food Festival called "Spice" at Café Jeepney of the InterCon Hotel, which celebrates Philippine-Indian ties.

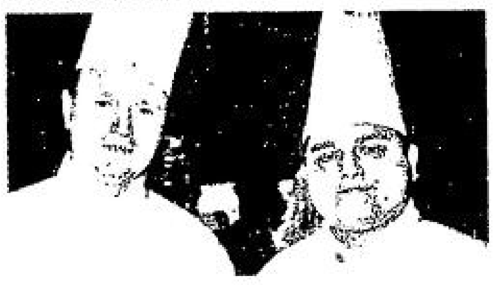
One chicken dish includes 40 spices, and if you want an overdose of cholesterol, there's *baker khaki*, delicious bread with slivers of almonds that is made from 1 kilo of flour and 1 kilo of butter—heavenly!

Guest chef **Sudipto Bhattacharya**, formerly of the Park Royal InterCon, Delhi, was especially flown in to present a buffet of Indian specialties such as Methi Murgh (chicken with tomatoes, coriander and fresh fenugreek), Gosht Udayagiri (lamb cooked with dried curry leaves, mustard and freshly roasted masala), and Maah Choliyan Di Daal (famous lentil delicacy that is simmered overnight).

Try it out—there's much more to Indian food than curries.

CONSUL Evie Costa, Charge d'affaires Brazil Carlos Carvalho, Kessara Arnold and Katirena Vovkua of the Czech Embassy

PHOTOS BY BETOY JOHNSON


INTERCON Executive Chef Cyrille Soenen and Indian guest chef Sudipto Bhattacharya

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DING Roces, Marita Roces, Caridad dela Peña, Irene Roces and Sylvana Diaz

JOHNNY Chotrani, Ambassador Sharma, Vishnu Hathiramani, Michael Hermann and Rahul Chabra

***

The Ambassador of the Netherlands, H.E. **Theo Arnold**, in cooperation with the P&O Nedlloyd, is sponsoring the traveling exhibition of "Anne Frank: A History of Today" at San Agustin in Intramuros as part of its cultural program.

The exhibit centers on the history of the Holocaust by telling the story of Anne Frank, supported by other eyewitness accounts about WW II. It is especially relevant today when "different concepts of democracy, the importance of protecting human rights, and the awareness that people should work together to live in peace and harmony are promoted," according to the Netherlands Embassy.

It was prepared by **Mariela Chryrikins**, representative of the Anne Frank House, who was present at the opening together with Education Secretary **Edilberto de Jesus**, Russian Ambassador and Mme. **Anatoli Nebogatova**. Inquirer's **Conrad de Quiros** was the lead speaker, extolling the human spirit and freedom.

JUSTICE and Amando

EDUARD Miailhe and Tessie Luz

***

Ding Roces' sojourns to Manila from his Sydney residence are included in his book "Art and Culture: Far Eastern University."

He recently opened a painting exhibit entitled "Landscape/Still Life" at **Silvana Diaz**'s Galleria Duemila.

Aside from Renaissance man Ding's paintings, the topic of conversation was his cousin **Morita Roces**' new restaurant, which she co-owns with another cousin, **Sylvia Montilla**, on Pioneer Street in Ortigas. It's becoming known not just for the food but for the stupendous decor as well.

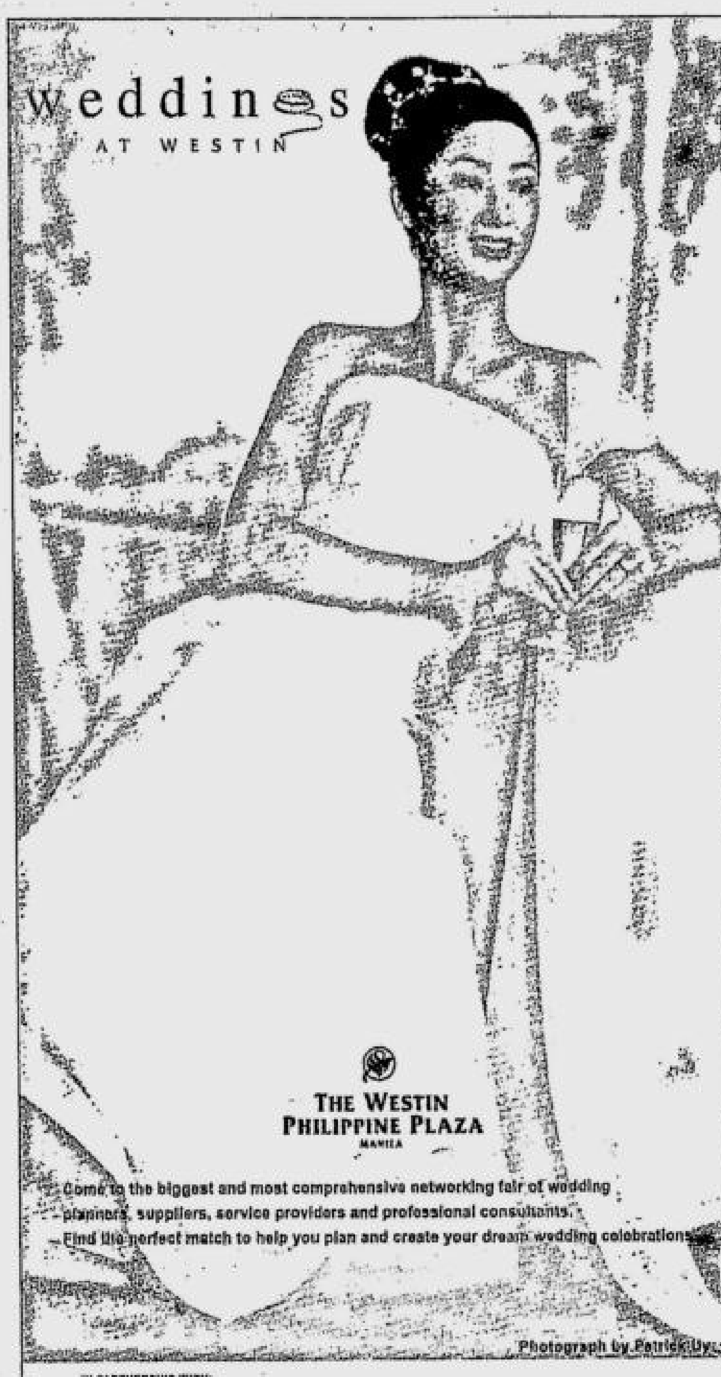
***

In celebration of the treaty of friendship signed 40 years ago on Jan. 22, 1963, by President Charles de Gaulle and Chancellor Konrad Adenaur, the French and German embassies in Manila held a joint celebration cohosted by French Ambassador **Renee Veyret** and German Ambassador **Herbert Jess**.

Attended by members of the diplomatic corps and the Filipino community, the reception highlighted the potential of two nations cooperating to the benefit not only of both but of the entire Europe.

This has special significance for the world today, given the number of countries that are in conflict and with the possibility of war in Iraq breaking out.

The Elysee Treaty is actually the foundation stone of the European Union that has a decisive influence on the development of Europe in the 21st century. Although the agreement showed what can be achieved by trusting cooperation rather than armed conflict, it is also an example of the progress that a sincere coming to terms with the past can do for the peoples of a continent.



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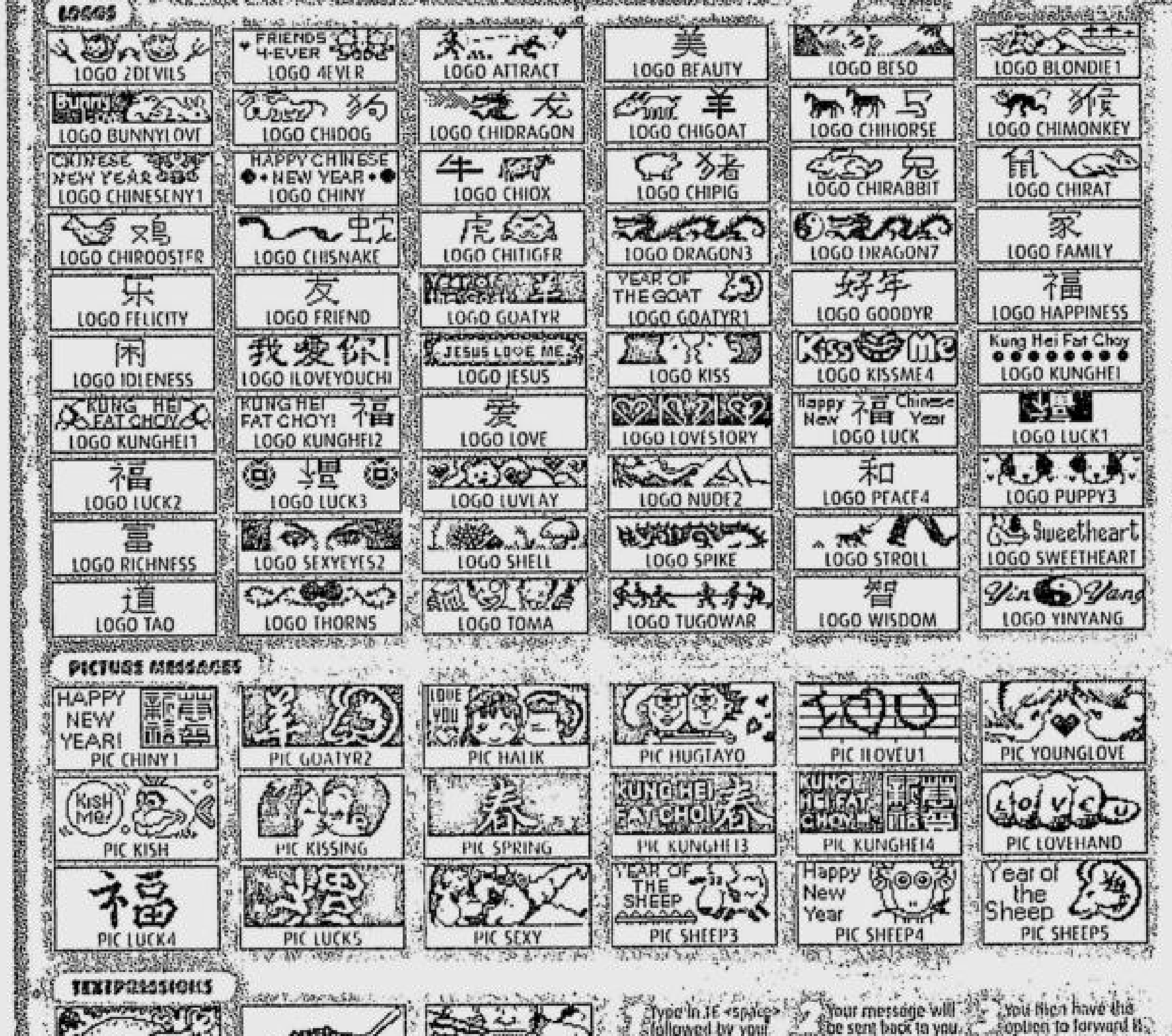
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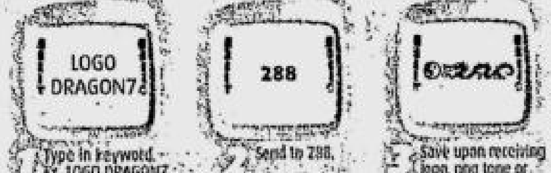
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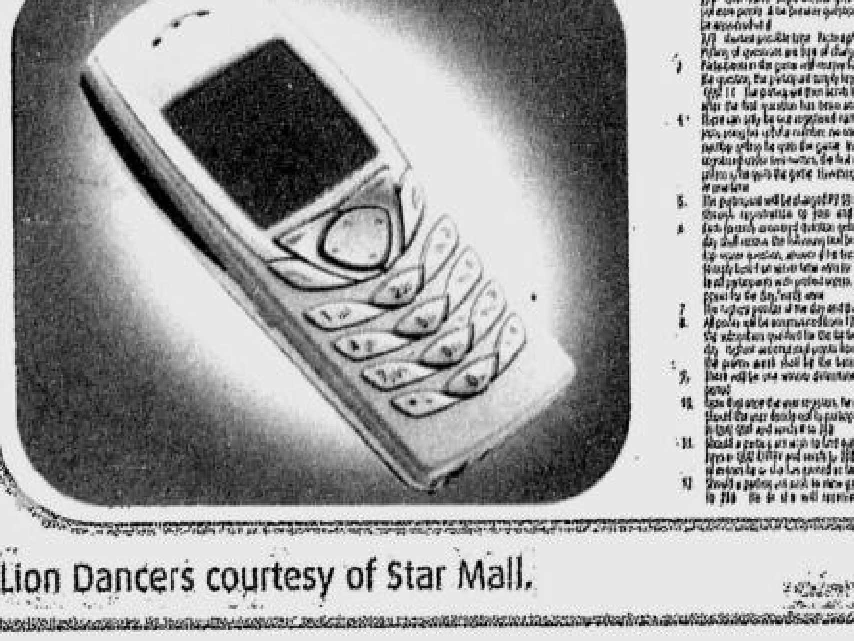

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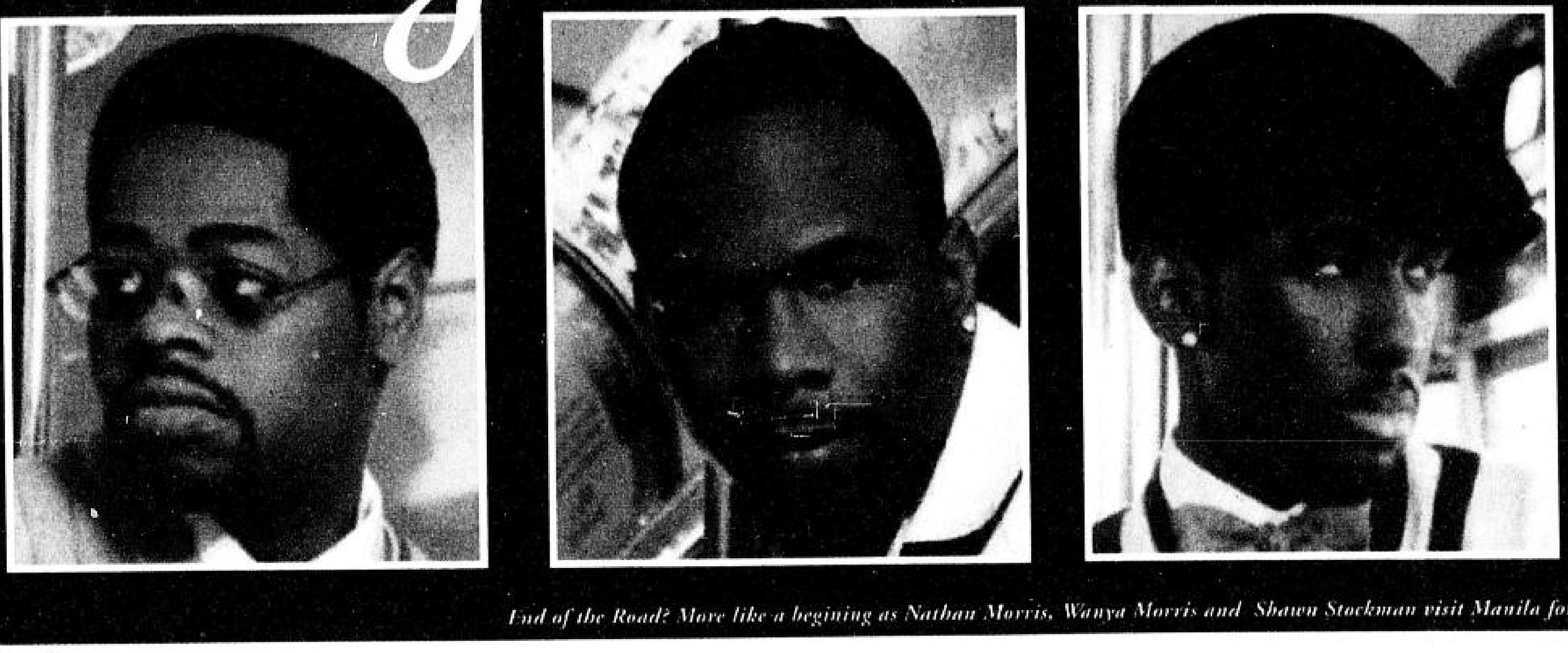
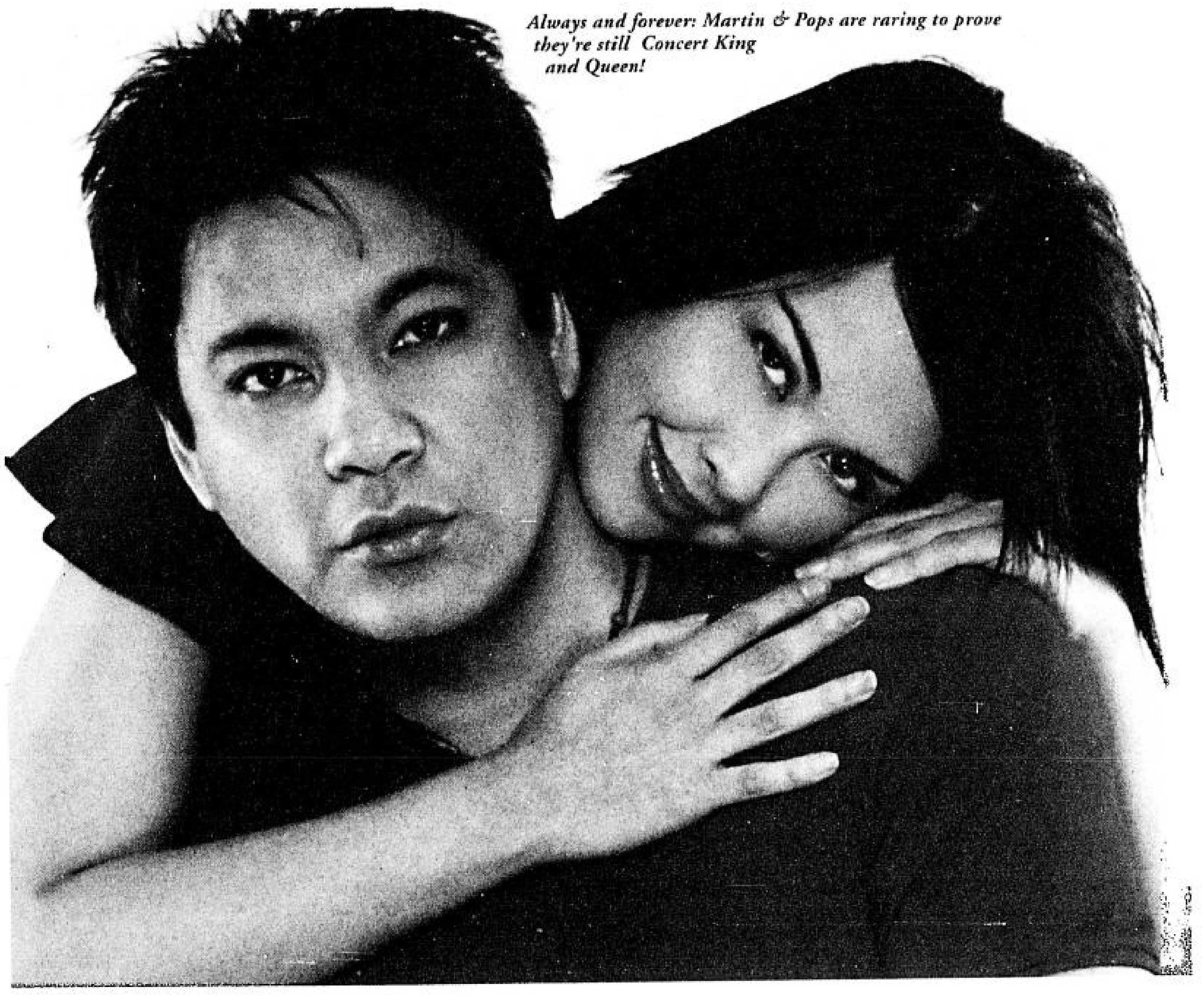


End of the Road? More like a begining as Nathan Morris, Wanya Morris and Shawn Stockman visit Manila for the first time.

Stephen Speaks set to perform this Febuary!



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Love is in the Air with SMART Amazing Rhythms

Aren't we Filipinos just one of the most romantic people in the world? As we enter the Love Month of 2003, the leading mobile services provider is all set to bring loving music as hearts go a-flutter in the Philippines. SMART sends hearts and love notes throughout its wide reaching network and goes all-out with explosive concerts with Amazing Rhythms – The SMART Concert Series, just in time for the Valentine's season!

Beginning with the band behind the phenomenal radio hit "Passenger Seat" from the album "No More Doubt", Stephen Speaks will be in town for their first Philippine tour starting next week. On February 5, the band will be performing at the NBC Tent. February 6 will see Stephen Speaks at the Rockwell Tent, February 7 at the Ateneo College Covered Courts, and February 8 back at the Rockwell Tent.

When Stephen Speaks performs in Manila, there will be a lot of opportunities to watch the band for free. SIM Swappers to the SMART Buddy 64K Super SIM get 1 free ticket per swap at MAGIC 89.9 DWTM at the 9th Floor of the Paragon Building on EDSA, Mandaluyong. Make the SIM Swap from Thursday, January 30, 2003 to, February 5, 2003 from 1 to 5pm. 25 lucky winners will be chosen out of these SIM Swappers at DWTM to be included in the raffle for the Meet and Greet Session with Stephen Speaks. You'll have your own intimate powwow with the band which will happen on Thursday, February 6 at DISH Power Plant Mall.

SMART and Talk 'N Text subscribers can win tickets to the upcoming Stephen Speaks performances by downloading ringtones and answering trivia questions about the band. Everyday, Stephen Speaks songs will be played on DWTM, after which listeners will be invited to play the trivia game and download the ringtone of the song. Hits like "Passenger Seat" and "Out of my League" can all be downloaded, while earning points for the raffle draw. There will be 6 draws everyday, with 3 winners per draw earning a pair of tickets each for the Stephen Speaks concerts. There will also be a grand draw where 2 winners will get Nokia 3530s.

To get a FREE ticket to the concert at the NBC Tent on February 5, just swap your non-SMART SIM to the SMART Buddy 64K Super SIM at the G/F Cupboard, University Mall, Taft Avenue starting January 31. And if you want a FREE ticket to the February 7 concert at the ADMU College Covered Courts, you can SIM Swap at the Ateneo Campus starting February 3.

You get your last chance to see Stephen Speaks FREE by swapping your non-SMART SIM right before the concert. SIM Swaps from 4:30pm to 7:30pm only on February 5 at the NBC Tent, Bonifacio Global City, and on February 6 at the Rockwell Tent get FREE tickets.

Grammy-award winning artists Boyz II Men will perform their trademark R&B and soul grooves on February 14 at the NBC Tent. Known for hits like "End of the Road", "Water Runs Dry", "On Bended Knee", and others, the international recording superstars are guaranteed to make everyone's Valentine's Day unforgettable. These are the guys who gave us the new modern romantic pop - the same unmistakable slow beat that sets us to sighing and oohing with romantic sentimentality.

SMART gives you the chance to be in-depth with this tres-romantico group. SMART subscribers get a chance to a romantic exclusive come Valentines with FREE tickets available as well as brand new Nokia 3530s as grand prizes! Just join the Music Link Boyz II Men Promo. From February 5 to February 13, stay tuned to DWTM and listen for promo announcements and Boyz II Men songs which will be played six times a day.

Swap your Non-SMART SIM to a SMART Buddy 64K Super SIM from 1 - 5 PM, starting February 6 to February 10, at participating JAG Outlets in the ff. Malls: Glorietta Makati, Sta. Lucia East Grand Mall, Robinsons Ermita, and get a free ticket to the Boyz II Men Concert!

If you SIM Swap at the designated JAG Outlets, you'll be included in the raffle wherein 20 lucky winners get the special privilege of joining the very exclusive Pre-Concert Party with Boyz II Men on February 12, 2003! SIM Swappers also get the chance to be picked in the raffle as the one lucky winner to meet and greet Nathan, Shawn, and Wanya on February 13, 2003, Thursday at Shangri-la Makati Hotel.

Lastly, SMART is set to bring about a reunion which many thought would never happen again. Martin Nievera and Pops Fernandez, the Concert King and Queen of the Philippines, will be performing onstage together once more. After a long time apart, Martin and Pops will finally rekindle that old spark of romance with a series of concerts, the first of which will be on February 15th at the Waterfront Hotel in Cebu. Get a chance to win 2 FREE Tickets when you swap your non-SMART SIM to a SMART Buddy 64K Super SIM at any SMART Wireless Center or TSI Outlet in Cebu from February 1 to 12, 2003. Winners will be announced during the draw on February 12.

The historic Araneta Coliseum will host Martin and Pops on February 21, 22 and 28, Likewise you get a chance at two FREE tickets when you swap your non-SMART SIM to a SMART Buddy 64K Super SIM at any Metro Manila SMART Wireless Center from February 1 to 18, 2003. Keep an eye out for the draw date which is on February 19.

Finally, Expo Filipino in Clark Field, Pampanga will be the venue for the couple's March 1 concert. Secure a couple of FREE tickets for you and your special someone by swapping your non-SMART SIM to a SMART Buddy 64K Super SIM at SMART Wireless Center in SM Pampanga or Robinsons Starmills from February 1 to 25, 2003. Who knows? Your name could be drawn on February 26, just in time for a perfect capper to the entire Love Month!

To get the chance to win free tickets to these fabulous concerts of loving and cooing, stay tuned with your favorite mobile services provider, SMART!

Only SMART can bring these world-class entertainers to an eagerly romantic Philippine audience. With the widest range of services and over 8.5 million subscribers on the SMART network, Amazing Rhythms, The SMART Concert Series is just the latest way that SMART gives back to its audience. With SMART this Valentine's, you get loving service.

ADVT.

Sway a little prayer for me

From page C8

opened in 1947 in her hometown, Carcar.

The studio, along with the family, later on moved to Cebu City. The management and choreography of the dance troupe have since passed to daughters Sara and Stella (now with the Atlanta Ballet) and Val, who had also earlier settled in Washington, D.C., but came back when his children started schooling.

Last year, Val's 75-year-old mother came back just to dance in the Sinulog, again in thanksgiving.

Devotion

"The Sandiegos' religiosity is contaminating," said boutique owner Arlene Monteclar Woolbright, a former dance troupe member. She continues to lend a hand, usually providing snacks during rehearsals, as though it were part of her charitable work.

Back in high school, she auditioned and was taken into the group, training for less than a year before being picked for a performance in Japan in the mid-1970s. "We were called Manila International Artists, and we did jazz, Tahitian and Filipino folk dances. You could say we were the original Japayukis," she said. Her devotion to the Sto. Niño deepened after she survived the difficult delivery of her firstborn.

Her former dance partner, Junjet Primor, described membership in Sandiego as almost "like a calling." More than a dance troupe, it is a family, where no one is ever turned away. "Those who want to join the Sandiegos in the Sinulog, but can't really dance are assigned tasks like hand painting the costumes, doing beadwork or helping the dancers with their makeup."

Offers

The Sandiego Dance Troupe has had many offers here and abroad to go professional, but the family has declined, added this civil engineer who made dance a career, directing-choreographing the recent Miss Cebu beauty pageant, among other projects.

P.E. teacher Catherine Flores-Vestil explained: "We dance for special intentions, to change something in our lives, and to thank God." Five years ago she was afflicted with a life-threatening disease—standing for long periods caused severe pain in her abdomen. Val's prescription was prayer. Inexplicably, she'd feel no pain while dancing the Sinulog, even if she were on her feet for six hours.

Now also with the Sinulog Foundation, Catherine hardly feels any pain these days. Without declaring that she has been cured, she said proof that she has recovered is her having had another child, now 2 years old. Her older daughter, Kemi, a 21-year-old medical student, now also dances with her.

"Those who've seen us dance say we have a different aura," she intimated. "Not everyone will understand, so we share only with those who share our beliefs."

The prayer-dance now referred to as *sinulog* can be traced to a time not long after Magellan gifted Queen Juana with a Sto. Niño, along with the Our Lady of Guadalupe from Spain and the Ecce Homo (Behold the Man), depicting Christ crowned with thorns.

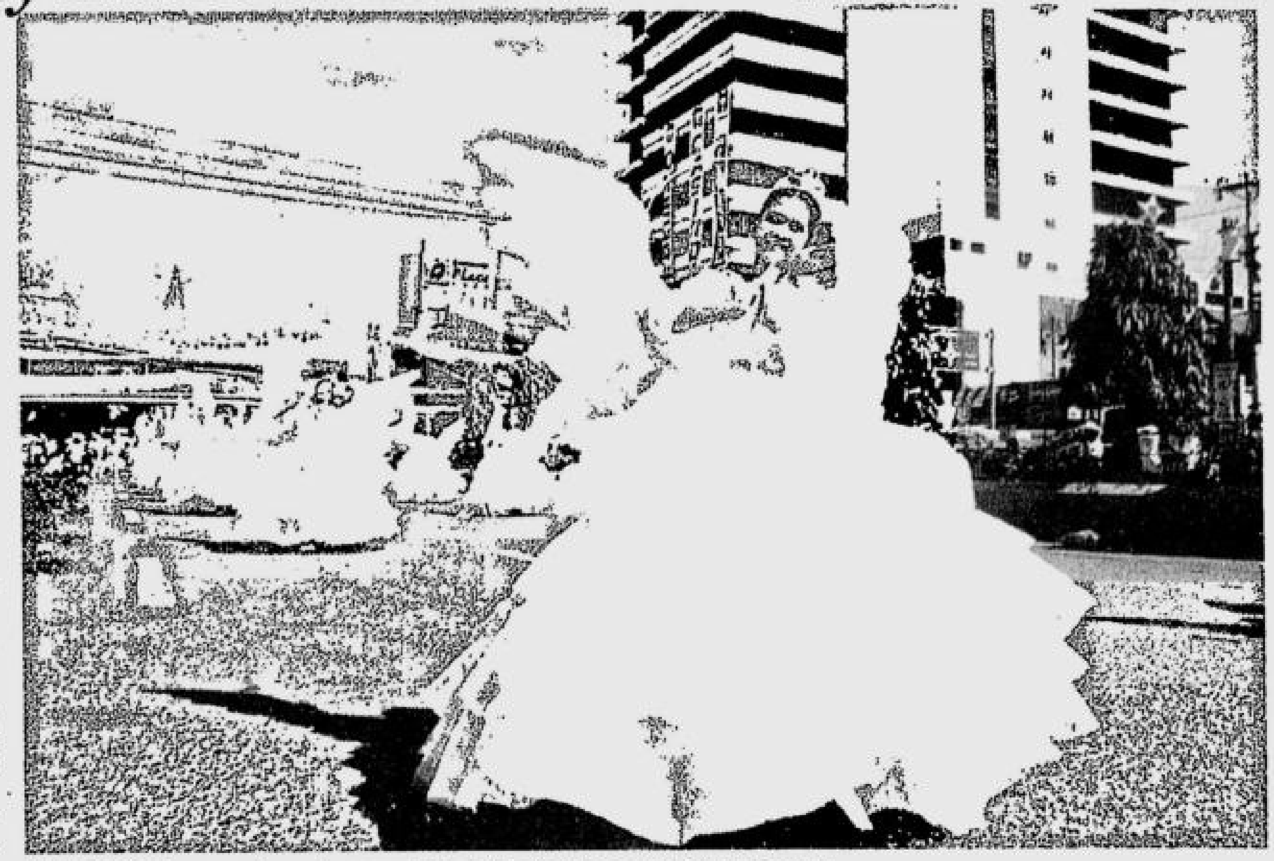
According to historian Tonette Pañares, when once the land was plagued by famine, one of Juana's subjects thought of praying to the Sto. Niño, which was numbered among the wooden animist idols. It is said that so intense was this man's praying that he began moving in a strange way, as though spellbound. The queen asked who he was, and someone answered, "Si Nuog."

Pañares, former curator of the Southwestern University Museum, was also the first curator of the annual Sto. Niño exhibit, organized six years "to put the Sto. Niño back in the Sinulog." (This year's exhibit at the Ayala Mall, curated by Odette Jereza, incorporated a presentation on the new Mysteries of Light, annotated by Msgr. Cris Garcia.)

Years before the festival became a tourist event, devotees marked the Christ Child's feast day with a novena, Pañares said. Out-of-towners would make a pilgrimage to Cebu City, if only to the touch the walls of the Basilica.

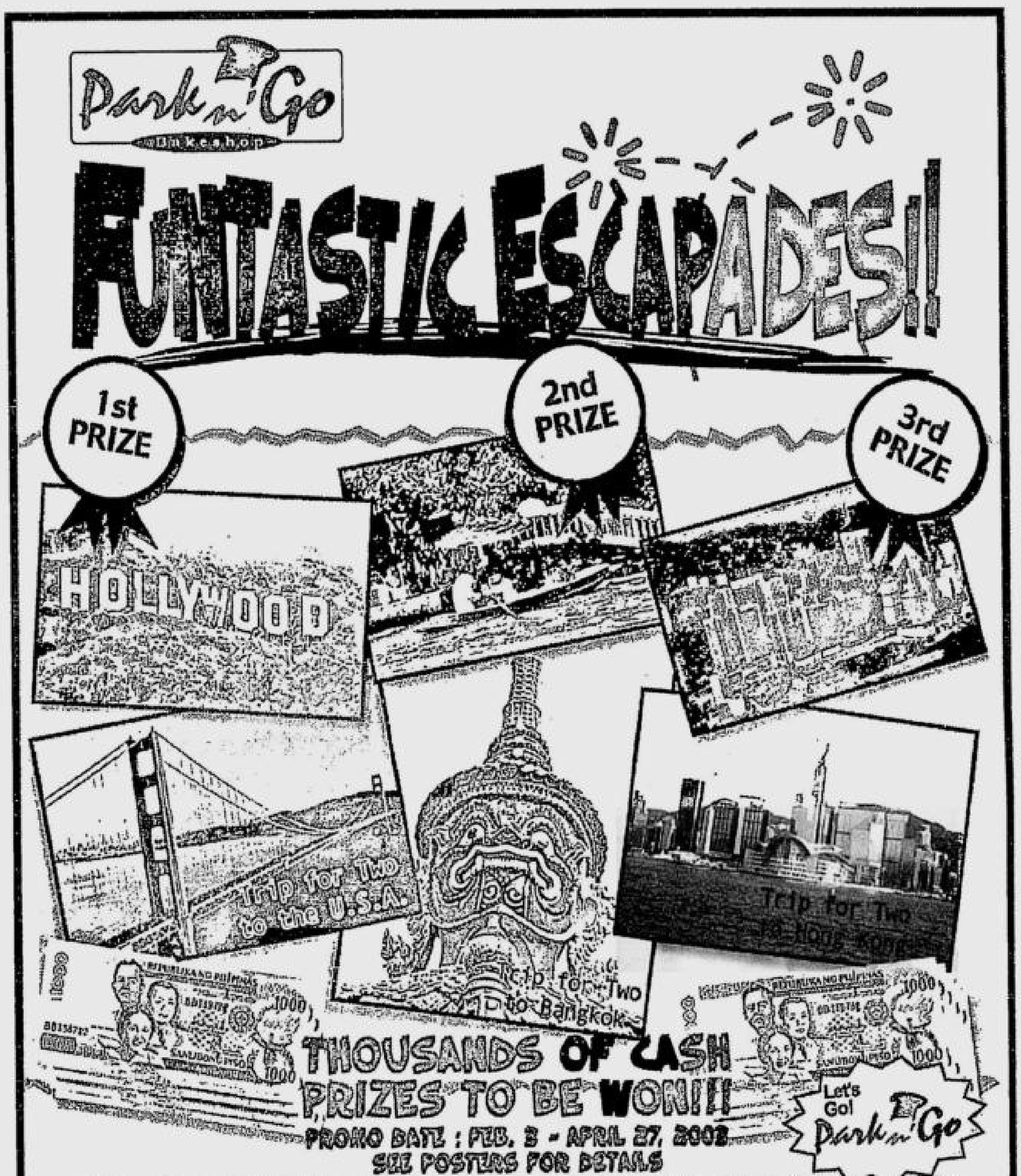
Vice Mayor Michael Rama, overall chair of the Sinulog, said religion has never really been overshadowed by the merrymaking. Faith remains the foundation of the festival, as seen through the various religious activities such as the dawn rosary procession from the Fuente Osmeña to the Basilica and the novena masses.

"For as long as the people's hearts are in the Basilica, the spiritual aspect of Sinulog will never be forgotten," he said. And this is probably best manifested by the Sandiego Dance Troupe.



SANDIEGO dancers dressed as angels look like they descended from heaven.

OPHELIA Sandiego as Mother Mary poses with would-be angels in the new Sandiego studio before the parade.



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Foundation remembers deeds of heroes

ON FEB. 7, the Friends of Intramuros Foundation with the Memorare Manila 1945 committee and the Rotary Club of Intramuros, will again lead the Intramuros community in commemorative memorial rites known as "A Day of Remembrance, Recognition and Resolution."

The services will begin with a requiem Mass at San Agustin Church followed by a procession to two historic crypts within the church compound for prayer and floral offerings. Subsequently, the procession will proceed to the Manila Memorare Monument where floral offerings will be made.

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Sway a little prayer for me

THE SANDIEGOS—Ophelia Zozobrado-Sandiego, Val Sandiego and youngest child Anna Luisa—with Smart's public affairs head Mon Isberto

By Angelina G. Goloy
Contributor

AS sometimes happens to performers, tragedy strikes moments before the curtain rises, and the real trouper must live by that familiar dictum about the show having to go on.

It happened to an entire dance troupe in Cebu, although theirs was more than just a presentation. On the eve of the fluvial procession ushering in the two-day main event of the annual Sinulog festival last year, fire destroyed their dance studio, along with their costumes and props.

Just the same, the 50-or-so dancers joined the procession, as well as the grand parade the following day, but minus the creatively designed costumes Cebuanos had come to look forward to each year. Instead, they were in an all-white outfit, their plain T-shirts donated by Smart Communications Inc., where the choreographer's sister-in-law happens to work.

The stark contrast was symbolic. Stripped of the color and pageantry of previous performances, the dance troupe's simple presentation restored the purity of intentions that had kept alive a revered tradition in the country's "Cradle of Christianity." The Sinulog dance, after all, is a form of prayer in honor the Sto. Niño who, centuries after being introduced by Spanish conquistadors, continues to draw millions of devotees in petition and thanksgiving, especially on His feast day on the third Sunday of January.

Cebuanos recalled the Sandiego dancers' memorable presentation at this year's 22nd Sinulog festival.

"I interpret it as a test of faith," choreographer Val Sandiego said in a recent interview in Cebu City, arranged by Smart, which has since been the group's sponsor. "I thought then, if this is the way God wants us to be an example to others [not to be too attached to material things], so be it."

In that fire, he also lost a sizeable portion of antique collection built over 20 years, mostly *santos* and Sto. Niño images. Only 15 of about a hundred images were spared, among them the Sto. Niño his group uses in the Sinulog dance.

Val, who took over from his mother, Luz Mancao Sandiego, has always underscored the need to preserve the integrity of the Sinulog. While allowing variations in hand movements and blocking, he sticks to the basic one-step-forward-two-steps-back-ward routine, executed in "one-two-three" and time measure. The term *sinulog* comes from a Cebuano word meaning "current" or "wave," to which bodies moving in unison are likened.

"Our costumes preserve our Christian values and our Spanish-influenced culture. The challenge is conceptualizing something fresh without departing from the basic original concept," said Val, who designs the costumes together with his ballet teacher-wife Ophelia Zozobrado.

The Sandiego Dance Troupe displays the fervor and devotion that have made the Sinulog a celebration of faith

Not street dancing

The Sinulog parade that has become a popular tourist attraction is not exactly the same as street dancing in festivals of other provinces. It has two components, the free interpretation and the Sinulog-based competitions. The Sandiego Dance Troupe, has been a consistent winner in the latter, has entered the hall of fame, and now participates as guest presenter.

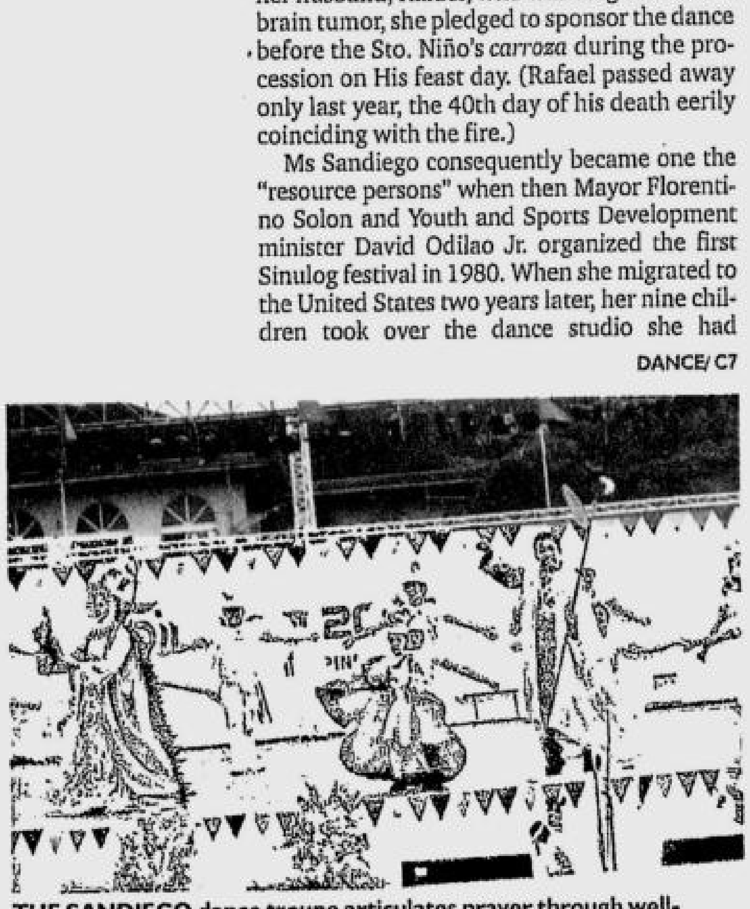
Moreover, Sandiego members who dance in the festival do so to show not their dancing talent but their devotion to the Sto. Niño. Many are not dance professionals or students, but housewives, office workers, and various professionals including doctors, teachers, dentists and physical therapists. "Some have been dancing with us for 15 years," each with a *panata*, Val said. He mentioned, for example, a woman who was miraculously cured of leukemia and a mother whose prayers for a baby were answered.

Their having been spared in last year's P1.5-million fire is another blessing the dancers now collectively thank God for. Interestingly, thanksgiving was what inspired Val's mother, the former P.E. department head at the University of San Carlos, to dance in the Sto. Niño procession way back in the 1960s.

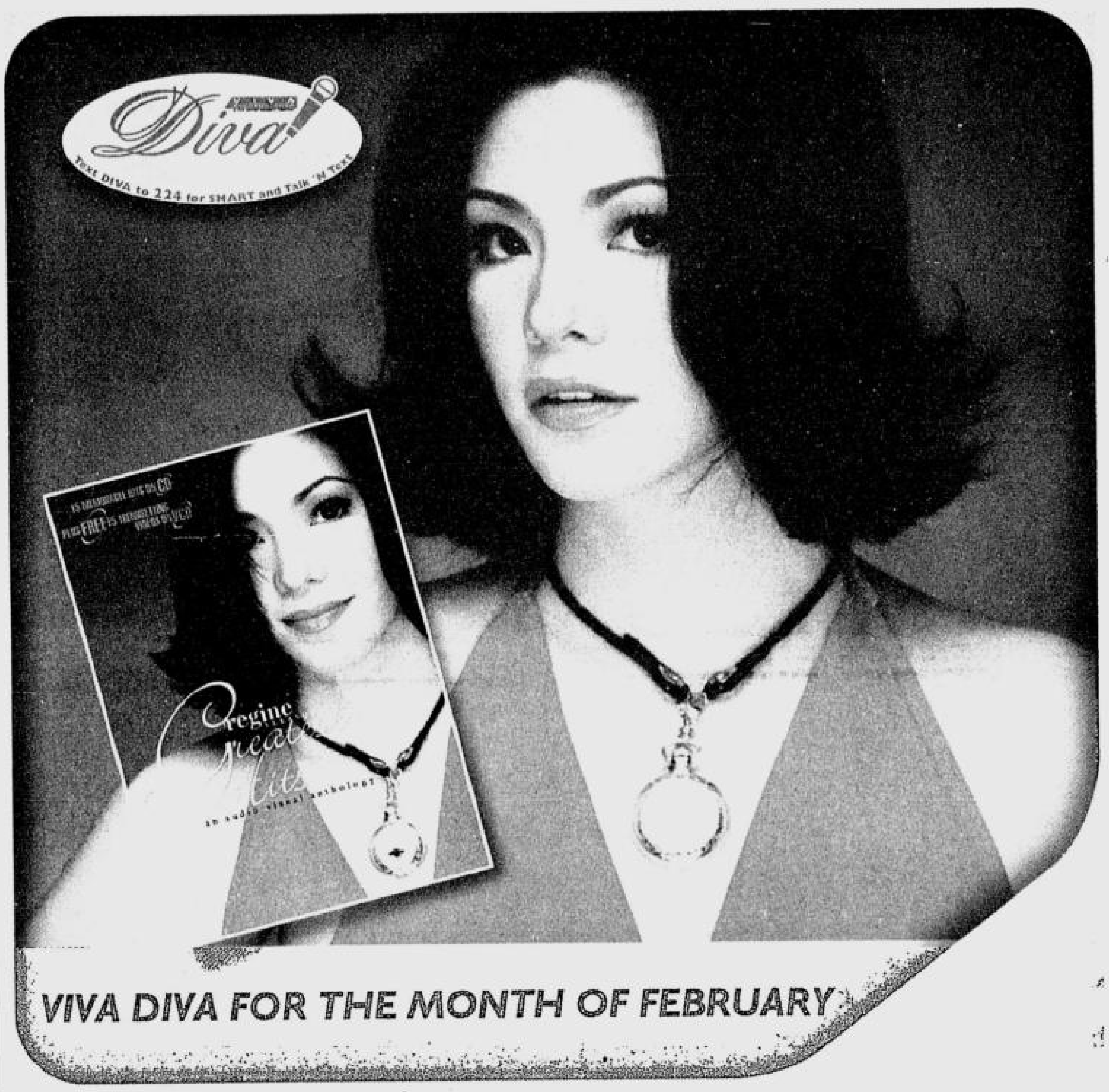
Overjoyed at the miraculous recovery of her husband, Rafael, who was diagnosed with brain tumor, she pledged to sponsor the dance before the Sto. Niño's *carroza* during the procession on His feast day. (Rafael passed away only last year, the 40th day of his death eerily coinciding with the fire.)

Ms Sandiego consequently became one the "resource persons" when then Mayor Florentino Solon and Youth and Sports Development minister David Odilao Jr. organized the first Sinulog festival in 1980. When she migrated to the United States two years later, her nine children took over the dance studio she had

DANCE/ C7



THE SANDIEGO dance troupe articulates prayer through well-choreographed danced steps at the Stadium.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1. To enter the game, register by keying in REG DIVA <fullname> <address> and send to 224.
2. To start the trivia game, key in DIVA and send to 224. You'll then receive the first question. Each correct answer earns you 50 points.
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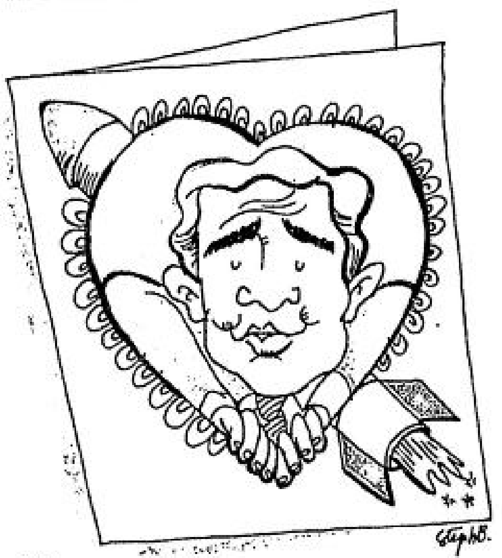
Sunday LIFESTYLE

Top Ten reasons we should scrap Valentine's Day

10 It's just a good excuse for George Dubya to go to war and get red stains on his hands.



9 We wore our red dress to the Chinese New Year dinner and the cleaner says the chili crab smell won't come off.

8 Schoolchildren will be spared from having to cut lopsided hearts out of red cartolinas and parents won't have to feign delight at Junior's ice cream-stained masterpiece.

7 Seeing red the whole day gives you sore eyes.

6 Too expensive for Romeos who have to wine and dine Mistress on the 13th, Wife on the 14th and the ingenue he's still wooing on the 15th.

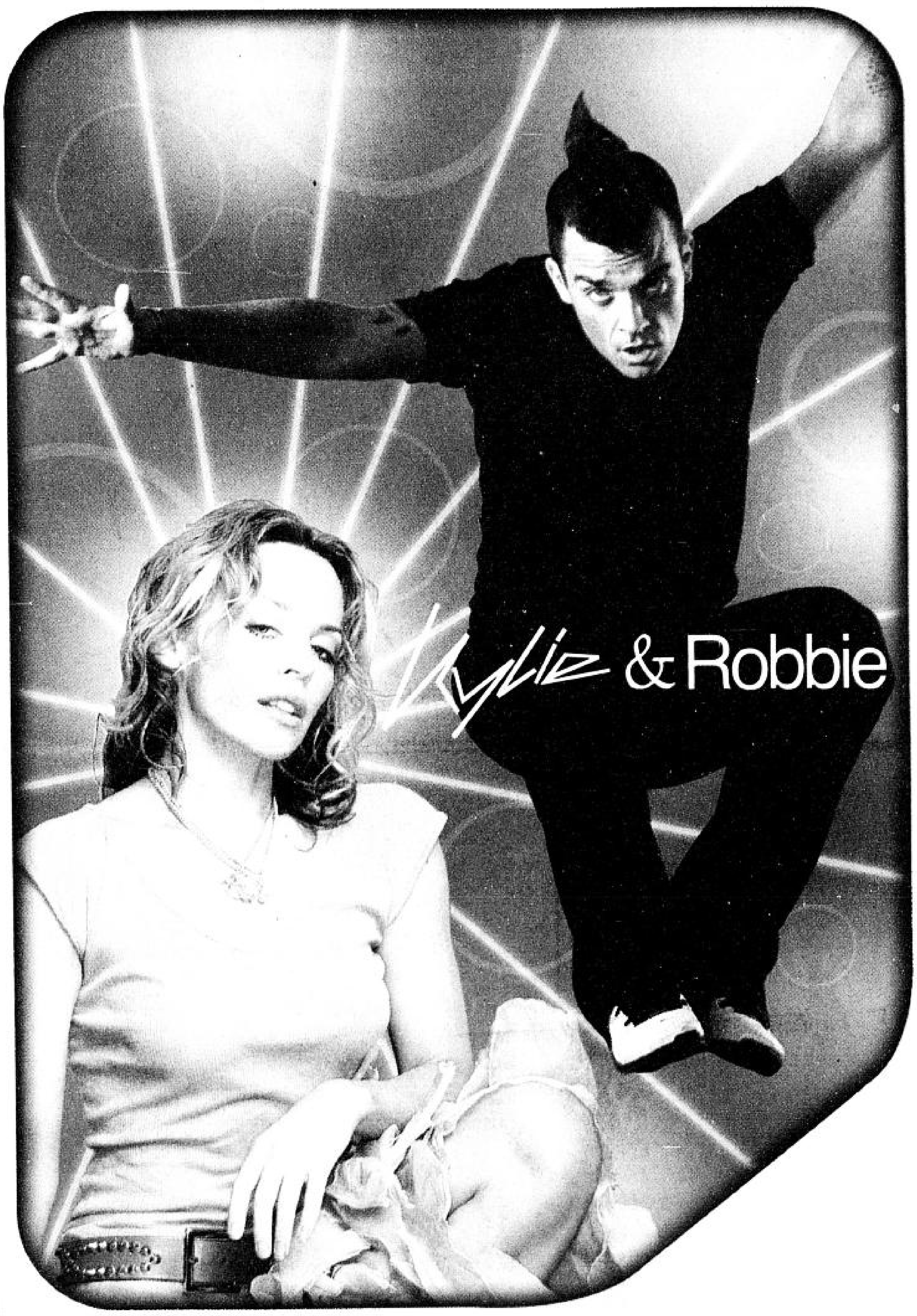
5 Guys always use mush and romance to talk their girlfriends into going all the way and then don't even call the morning after.

4 Single women are tired of the charade of sending themselves flowers so everybody at work will think there's a special

TOP TEN/ D3

Simply a double feature

Kylie & Robbie



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- Come Into My World keyword: *in2myworld*
- Can't Get You Out Of My Head keyword: *outfmyhead*
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Wickedly enticing people born in January

Whether born under the sign of Capricorn or Aquarius, they are self-confident, smart and dynamic

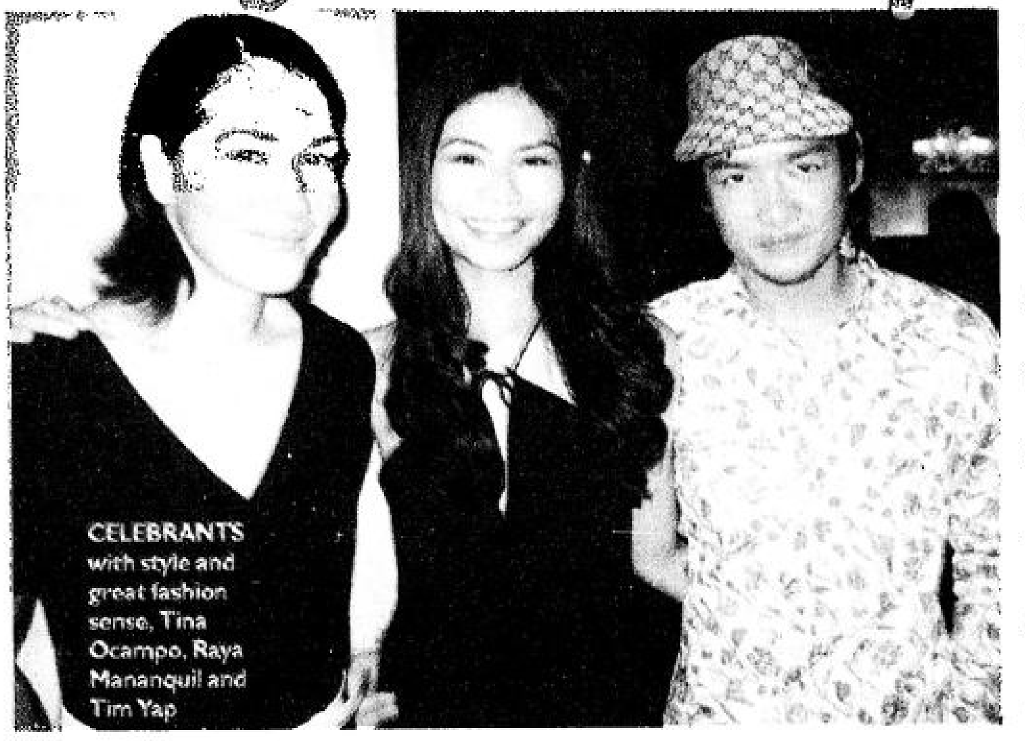
By Tessa Prieto Valdes

Personally, I am not really into horoscopes. In my line of business—interior design—I deal more with feng shui than star charts. So I don't really bother to look up my astrological reading for the day. Is it going to be a lucky day for me? I would rather be surprised as the day unfolds.

But it is quite interesting to discover how certain traits can be distinctive about people belonging to a particular sun sign. In a discussion with my cousin, **Amanda Carpo**, born Jan. 31, we analyzed compatible signs and whether it was worth pursuing a relationship with someone whose sign is not in harmony with yours. Not that a couples' lives depend on star signs, but it is curious to see whether the correct alignment of the stars is in their favor.

Those born in the early part of January are under the sign of Capricorn and those born later are Aquarians. In general, Capricorns (Capricornians? Yikes!) are self-confident and intelligent. Natural leaders, they work systematically and believe in authority but are sometimes too stubborn and traditional. Aquarians are dynamic but rebellious, are fighters and usually are the center of attention. They are quick-tempered but considerate, affectionate but careless.

BARBIE Tessa with fairy Annika


CELEBRANTS with style and great fashion sense, Tina Ocampo, Raya Mananquil and Tim Yap

Sexy and in control

Somehow, the people I know born in January match these traits although they have, of course, their individual personalities as well. All are strong-willed and undeniably sophisticated. With a degree of kookiness, they cast the image of a wickedly enticing female, or male. They are strong, sexy and disturbingly in control.

Tim Yap, born Jan. 17, and **Raya Mananquil**, born Jan. 26, are clear examples of fashion-crazed individuals, both sexy and feminine. This year, both celebrated their natal days in the new Greenbelt area. Tim had an intimate dinner at 12 Restaurant (but will have a huge party soon) and Raya got Kitchen and Famous as her party scenes.

True bohemian

Peachie Prieto, born Jan. 24, is a character outside the bubble of fashion. Among all my relatives, I believe that my creative juices are from her branch of the family tree. She celebrated in her true bohemian, carefree style with friends and family jamming with the Blue Rats. **Cowboy** and Peachie brought the house down with good ol' rock 'n' roll. Colorful round lanterns and candles created a folk festive mood with free-flowing drinks and sushi all over. Full of vitality and spunk, Peachie has found inner peace and the perfect hair color.

ANTONIO Garcia, Leica Carpo, Sigalit and Sinai Djamal

Tina Ocampo, born Jan. 28, is a true Aquarian, confident and unconventional. An influential fashion icon, she chose to wear **Tracy Reese**, a brand sold at Mix, for her celebration. An **Antonio Garcia** creation was the centerpiece in Kitchen, where she hosted a dinner. Her longtime friends, **Alta Tan** and **Izza Gonzales Agana**, were among her many well-wishers.

Even Sen. **Loren Legarda**, who shares the same birthday, came in a full Muslim attire. (No more Chinese outfits and pashminas?) Getting the same amount of space and attention as my **Mich Dulce** gown was **Tingting Cojuangco**'s Maria Clara ensemble. I realized my age when I saw DJ **Jaime Zobel** spinning. Same name, but I don't think this offspring of **Jaime Augusto** is even 14.

Young and confident

But for me, the true example of a Capricorn/Aquarius personality—which is oozing with confidence and authoritativeness—is my 5-year-old, **Annika**, born Jan. 19. She had a girls-only, Barbie party where all the guests got their hair and faces done. One of her guests was so taken with her makeover she wanted to sleep sitting up so she could show off the new 'do in school the next day.

GIANA Montinola, Jay and Lance Gokongwei

Annika practically planned the theme of her party all by herself—and to think that she is only 5! Is that due to her genes, her environment or her being on the Capricorn-Aquarius cusp?

So what astrological signs are compatible with Capricorns and Aquarians? Well, I'll just reserve that for another article—just in time for Valentine's Day!

E-mail the author at seaprincess@inquirer.com.ph

RAJO Laurel, Pops Fernandez, Sea Princess and Tina Ocampo

SANDER Tantoco and Bobby Novenario

BETTINA Ocampo between Cristina and Camilla Soriano

LEICA Carpo, Patrick Reyno and Paolo Prieto

RISSA Mananquil-Samson, Raya Manaquil and Mark Nelson

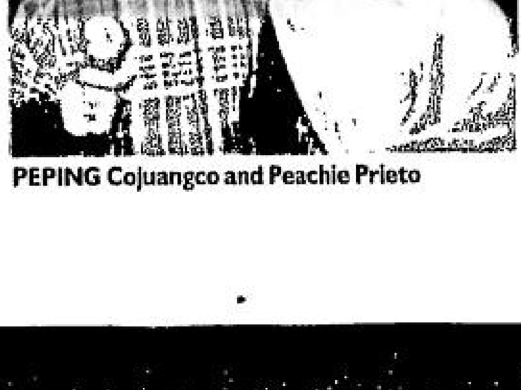
STYLISHLY Mabolo by Antonio Garcia at Kitchen

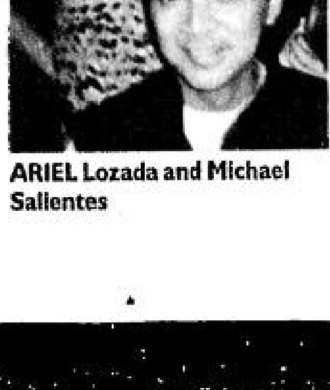
ROSAN Cruz with beau Donatien Monod

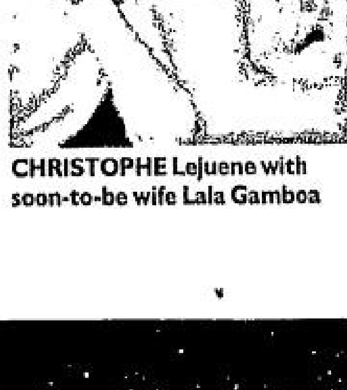
DODOT and Mikee Jaworski, Peachie Prieto, Morita Roces, Indian Princess and China Cojuangco

MAILIN and Andy Locsin, Karla Delgado, Briccio Santos and Neal Oshima

MELISSA Lopez with hubby Joel Jouren


PEPING Cojuangco and Peachie Prieto


ARIEL Lozada and Michael Sallentes


CHRISTOPHE Lejuene with soon-to-be wife Lala Gamboa

P30
Gift Gate's P30
Red Treat
TOKYO
P30

Double treat for the new year

A DOUBLE celebration unfolds as Gift Gate and Tokyo Tokyo welcome the new lunar year of the Goat with an exciting treat for everyone.

Grab your "ang paos" and celebrate Chinese New Year for the whole month of February with Gift Gate's Red Treat Promo.

Every Red Iced Tea purchase at Tokyo Tokyo restaurants entitles a diner to a P30 Gift Gate coupon. Present the coupon at any Gift Gate or Sanrio Surprises store and get P30 off for every P300 purchase.

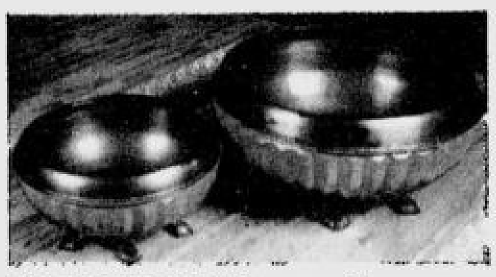
MIKEE Cojuangco-Jaworski in a Tokyo Tokyo kimono

Year of the Goat sale

OLD Asia, one of the country's finest Asian furniture dealers, greets the Year of the Goat with a month-long sale of up to 50-percent off starting

The items on sale range from grand antique set pieces to little old trinkets and charms that include, among others, elmwood pieces in black lacquer finish, scroll desks and horseshoe chairs, white metal vases and floor lamps with origami-fold shades, intricately detailed temple bells and huge carved mirrors to small black leather jewelry boxes with classic Chinese artwork and old elmwood knitting boxes (which can be filled with anything from candy to small decorative objects), red-lacquered chests and cabinets with faded artwork, modem turtle-legged side tables with tops made from huge stone slabs of old flooring, and Burmese offering containers in colors such as burnt orange, gold and red.

The Chinese New year Sale runs until Feb. 28. Old Asia showrooms are located at the 2/L, Power Plant Mall, Rockwell Center; and 4/L, Shangri-La Plaza Mall. Call 898-1314.



BLACK-AND-GREEN lacquered Burmese offering containers

ANSWER TO SUNDAY CROSSWORD

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Top 10 reasons we should scrap Valentine's Day

From page D1

someone who remembered.

3 It's a working holiday anyway.

2 Chocolates make us fat, roses make us sneeze and perfumes make us dizzy.

And the No. 1 reason Valentine's Day should be scrapped is...

1 It's Kris Aquino's birthday, so why should she get two gifts?

ILLUSTRATIONS: STEPH BRAVO

Kahit walang kusinera, meron kang katulong.

Knorr
Cook-it-Easy!
Gata
Palabok
Afritada-Menudo
Kare-Kare
Kaldereta-Mechado
Breading

Sa tulong ng Knorr® Cook-it-Easy!, ano mang ulam--ikaw mismo--kaya mo nang lutuin! Dahil ang Knorr® Cook-it-Easy! kumpleto na sa timpla, kumpleto pa sa choicest ingredients, kaya kumpleto sa sarap--wala ka nang hirap! At dahil gawa ng Knorr, siguradong patok sa iyong pamilya.

Knorr®
Cook-it-Easy!
Kumpletong Sarap
Walang Hirap!

Strengthen Your Teeth as You Brush

We all realize the importance of calcium to the growth and maintenance of our bones. However, it is also vital to stress its significance in dental health. Calcium plays an important role at every stage of life and growth - from the development of teeth in the fetus to the infant to the prevention of cavities in childhood and early adulthood and the retention of teeth in middle age and beyond.

Unfortunately, our teeth lose calcium as the days go by. Lack of calcium can lead to weak spots which, if left unchecked, can in turn lead to cavities.

Dental research shows that by adding calcium plus fluoride to weak spots, the loss of tooth minerals can be interrupted or arrested. Fluoride, whose cavity-preventing abilities are known, actually works by accelerating the deposit of minerals into the teeth. With the combined effect of calcium and fluoride, we can help to neutralize plaque acids, prevent the loss of minerals that weaken our teeth and add minerals to our teeth - when and where they are needed. All this adds up to stronger teeth!

An easy and effective way to strengthen your teeth is to brush everyday with Colgate Maximum Cavity Protection - the toothpaste with both calcium and fluoride. This exclusive calcium and 2-fluoride formula inhibits mineral loss and enhances mineral gain. With Colgate, your teeth actually get stronger - every time you brush. The whole family really gets maximum cavity protection with Colgate with every brushing.

Enjoy 12-Hour Protection Plus Visibly Whiter Teeth

When did you last brush your teeth? Even if it's just an hour ago, your mouth could be in need of protection right now! The fact is, eating or drinking makes the mouth lose its defense. It becomes vulnerable to bacterial attack, resulting in major oral problems like cavities, gum disease, plaque, bad breath and tartar.

With most toothpastes, protection ceases the moment you pop food or drink into your mouth. However, one toothpaste has been proven to provide complete, long-lasting, anti-bacterial protection: Colgate Total. Evidence from over 36 clinical studies shows that Colgate Total attaches to teeth and gums for 12-hour protection - even if you eat or drink.

There's even better news: now you can buy a toothpaste that gives you all the protection of Colgate Total plus visibly whiter teeth. This new product, called Colgate Total Plus Whitening, has high cleaning silica which allows greater stain removal while remaining gentle for everyday use.

Recent clinical studies show that with one minute-brushings twice daily, significant reduction of tooth stains occurs after six weeks. Stain area and intensity is reduced by up to 50%. This greater stain reduction power leads to visibly whiter teeth.

New Colgate Total Plus Whitening not only gives you total long-lasting protection; it also makes your teeth so much whiter, people can't help but notice!

Brush Your Way to Healthy Teeth

How long does it take before you replace your old toothbrush with a new one? The Philippine Dental Association recommends that you make the change every 3 months - and for good reason!

Look at your old toothbrush. Its bristles are frayed, bent and worn out, right? That means your old brush can no longer do a good job of cleaning your teeth.

That's not all. Germs breed in old toothbrushes. Dentists swear that after a bout of colds or flu, the virus remain in your toothbrush. Every time you brush, you're actually putting millions of germs in your mouth! That's why you've got to throw your old toothbrush right away.

Let's say you're about to get a new toothbrush. How, exactly, can you tell if you're selecting the right one? Here are a few pointers:

- Choose a size and shape that feels comfortable and allows you to reach every tooth.
- Hard, brittle toothbrushes can injure your gums. Choose a toothbrush with soft, end-rounded bristles.
- For your kids, get a toothbrush that fits their small, growing mouths without jabbing or poking.
- Again for your little ones: let them choose their favorite color and design. This will make their brushing fun and exciting!
- Flexibility is important in a toothbrush. Make sure that the one you get can be maneuvered in all directions, like Colgate Navigator. This special toothbrush from Colgate has a unique head that "bends over backwards" to reach every nook and cranny in your mouth. Yes, even hard-to-reach back teeth.

Don't forget: if you want your mouth to be in good shape, your toothbrush should be, too! It's really a brushing basic that should not be ignored.

Colgate Holds "Kabarangay sa Dental Health"

In support of the 53rd National Dental Health Week, Colgate is implementing a dental outreach program called "Kabarangay sa Dental Health." In this campaign, kids and adults alike of the particular community visited can avail of free dental check-ups, oral prophylaxis and other preventive dental treatments as well as consultations and oral health education. These will be implemented in 10 PDA chapters in NCR, 1 PDA chapter in Cebu and 1 PDA chapter in Davao. 50 PDA chapters nationwide will likewise hold their own "Kabarangay sa Dental Health."

The activity will be covered in Barangay Showdown, a 4-hour radio program over DZMM. The coverages will be held every Sunday, from 8:00 a.m. to 12 noon. As a major sponsor, Colgate will be giving away free Colgate products to barangay residents.

"Kabarangay sa Dental Health" also aims to communicate the importance of oral health to the listening public. To achieve this, dentists from participating PDA chapters are giving interviews on dental issues which are discussed live in the radio program.

By rendering public service and initiating oral care education, the "Kabarangay sa Dental Health" effort is helping to attain oral health awareness for all.

Philippine Dental Association and Colgate:

A continued partnership for better oral health

In 1950, Presidential Proclamation No. 235 was formally signed by then President Elpidio Quirino, declaring February 3-9 of each year as National Dental Health Week. Its main objective was to instill dental health awareness among Filipinos.

Believing that oral health is crucial to total well being, the Philippine Dental Association spearheaded the move to instill oral health consciousness among the populace. Today, 53 years later, the PDA continues to celebrate National Dental Health Week with activities that help to achieve this purpose. This year's theme, "Hustong Kalusugan, Maaring Makamtan, Kapag Ngipi'y Aalagaan para sa Kinabukasan," underscores the importance of taking proper care of one's teeth.

Like the PDA, Colgate is also committed to an orally healthy Philippine society. The National Dental Health Week celebrations in the past saw Colgate and the PDA working closely, helping to make a vital difference in the oral health status of countless families.

The staging of the 53rd National Dental Health Week is a re-affirmation of this shared vision of Colgate and the PDA. "Colgate and the PDA have come a long way together," says Dr. Fay Dizon, Colgate's Professional Relations Manager. "Then and now, and especially during the National Dental Health Week, we will continue to be partners in providing dental care and promoting oral awareness to the people whom we serve."

The National Dental Health Week will be ushered by a motorcade on February 2. PDA Local Chapters, Affiliates and Dental Schools in North Luzon, South Luzon and the National Capital Region will be participating in the motorcade. They will converge at the Folk Arts Theater in the CCP complex along Roxas Blvd. for the opening ceremonies, chapter presentation and inter-dental school cheering competition.

Other activities lined up for the week include free dental check-ups, indigency clinics, poster and theme slogan contest, healthy smile contest, the PDA archives exhibit, kiddie dental festival and dental trade fair. Colgate products that give value for money will also be offered in leading supermarkets and drugstores.

53rd NATIONAL DENTA

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Philippine Dental Ass

"Hustong Kalusugan, Maaring Makamtan, Kapag Ngipi'y Aalagaan Para Sa Kinabukasan."

GENERAL PROGRAM OF ACTIVITIES

Feb. 2, 2003 – Sunday
5:00 am to 12:00 nn
•Motorcade 2003
•Opening Ceremony – PDA - Folk Arts Theater 53rd NDHW Celebration
•Chapter Presentation
•Inter-Dental School Cheering Competition
1:00 pm to 5:00 pm
•Opening Kiddie Dental Carnival & PDA Archives Exhibit (SM Megamall, Mandaluyong City)

Feb. 3, 2003 – Monday
8:00 am to 9:00 am
•Thanksgiving Mass – PDA Bldg.
8:00 am to 4:00 pm
•Libreng Pustiso Alay ng PDA (PDA grounds)
8:00 am to 5:00 pm
•PDA Chapters/Affiliates Nationwide Community Outreach Activities
• Poster/Slogan Contest - Selection (SM Megamall, Mandaluyong City)
•Awarding of Poster & Slogan-Making Contest
9:00am
•Unveiling of PDA Official Logo
10:00 am to 6:00 pm
•PDA Archives Exhibit & Kiddie Dental Carnival (SM Megamall, Mandaluyong City)

Feb. 4, 2003 – Tuesday
8:00 am to 5:00 pm
•Cleft Lip Operation (PDA Clinic)
•Unveiling of Luzon North & South, NCR, Visayas and Mindanao Billboards
•PDA Chapters/Affiliates Nationwide Community Outreach Activities

Feb. 5, 2003 – Wednesday
8:00 am to 5:00 pm
•Indigency Clinic (PDA Bldg.)
•PDA Chapters/Affiliates Nationwide Community Outreach Activities
8:00 am to 12:00 nn
•Healthy Smile Contest (PDA Bldg.)
•Awarding of Healthy Smile Contest (PDA Bldg.)

Feb. 6, 2003 – Thursday
8:00 am to 5:00 pm
•Indigency Clinic (PDA Bldg.)
•PDA Chapters/Affiliates Nationwide Community Outreach Activities

Feb. 7, 2003 – Friday
8:00 am to 5:00 pm
•Indigency Clinic (PDA Bldg.)
•PDA Chapters/Affiliates Nationwide Community Outreach Activities
8:00 am to 12:00 nn
•Community Outreach (Baybayin-Sucat, City of Muntinlupa)

Feb. 8, 2003 – Saturday
5:00 pm to 6:00 pm
•Mass for Feast Day of St. Apolonia (PDA Bldg.)
6:00 pm to 12:00 am
•Closing Ceremony and Appreciation Night (PDA Bldg.)

PDA STEERING COMMITTEE

Honorary Chairman – Dr. Luis D. Uy
General Chairman – Dr. Angelo V. Fernandez
Co-Chairman – Dr. Walter V. Del Rosario
Area Project Coordinators - Dr. Emmanuel T. Centeno (VP Luzon North)
- Dr. Danilo P. Feliciano, Jr. (VP Luzon South)
- Dr. Rafael Dave O. Salvador, Jr. (VP Visayas)
- Dr. Floro C. Francisco (VP Mindanao)
Secretary – Dr. Marylou S. Fernandez
Treasurer – Dr. Ludeth Budomo

WORKING COMMITTEES

I. MOTORCADE
Dr. Fred Reyes
Dr. Melchor Amata
Dr. Apolinario A. Alzona
Dr. Alden D. Velarde
Dr. Florenia A. Zenarosa

II. OPENING CEREMONY
Dr. Teodora A. Espeleta
Dr. Tagumpay P. Tapawan

III. KIDDIE DENTAL CARNIVAL (Dental Fair)
Dr. Maria Liza C. Centeno

IV. ARCHIVES EXHIBIT
Dr. Francisca S. Mercado

V. SCHOOL PARTICIPATION
Dr. Raymundo G. Vinzon
Dr. Carlos B. Melo

VI. INDIGENCY CLINIC
Dr. Felicitas C. Jaungue

VII. COMMUNITY OUTREACH PROGRAM (Smokey Mountain)
Dr. Elsa D.M. Olea
Dr. Julio R. Faustino
Dr. Edwindina dela Rosa
Dr. Albert A. Carbonel

VIII. LIBRENG PUSTISO
Dr. Balbino B. Villanueva

IX. SLOGAN CONTEST
Dr. Mary Grace U. Sta. Ana
Dr. Josephine Panergo

X. HEALTHY SMILE CONTEST
Dr. Catherine M. Reyes

XI. POSTER-MAKING CONTEST
Dr. Grace G. Brozas

XII. PUBLICITY
Dr. Ricky Martin R. Llorca
Dr. Rey Castillo

XIII. CLEFT LIP OPERATION
Dr. Carlos C. Buendia
Dr. Andrew Regacho

XIV. SPIRITUAL/FOOD
(Thanksgiving/Feast of St. Apolonia)
Dr. Felicidad A. Poblador

XV. ARRANGEMENT AND ACCOMMODATION
Dr. Leo Gerald R. de Castro
Makati Dental Society

XVI. FOOD
Dr. Allyn G. Ferrer
PPTC
Dr. Marie Liza C. Diaz
Marikina Dental Chapter
Dr. Ma. Corazon M. Abing
Malabon/Navotas Dental Chapter
Dr. Imelda E. Abeng
Mandaluyong Dental Chapter

XVII. BUDGET AND FINANCE
Dr. Emmanuel T. Centeno

XVII. CLOSING AND APPRECIATION
Dr. Lilian L. Ebuen
Quezon City Dental Chapter

XIX. AWARDS AND PRIZES
Dr. Anel A. Ilagan
Dr. Jonas G. Anonuevo
San Juan Dental Chapter

XX. CONSULTATION HOUR
Dr. Mario E. Esquillo
Manila Dental Chapter

XXI. PROGRAM/INVITATION
Dr. Amry Jane C. Bondoc
Las Pinas Dental Society
Dr. Ma. Mirasol G. Cabal
Pasay Dental Chapter

My warmest greetings to the Philippine Dental Association on its 53rd National Dental Health Week.

This gathering comes at an opportune time as we consolidate our efforts to upgrade medical and dental services in the country. Your theme, "*Hustong Kalusugan, Maaring Makamtan, Kapag Ngipi'y Aalagaan Para Sa Kinabukasan*", indicates the integral link that dental care plays in ensuring a productive citizenry that, consequently, underpins a robust economy.

As you convene your members to discuss the many concerns affecting the Philippine dental system, let me remind you of the vital role that you perform in making our dental services affordable and available to the Filipino everyman while maintaining a truly world-class standard.

I fervently wish for the success of this event. *Sama-sama nating itaguyod ang tunay na malusog, mapagkalinga, at matatag na Republika.*

Mabuhay!

GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO
President
Republic of the Philippines

I would like to convey my warmest greetings to the officers and members of the Philippine Dental Association on the celebration of your 53rd National Dental Health Week.

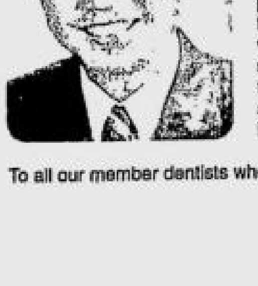
As our country takes on the daunting task of alleviating poverty and improving the quality of life of Filipinos, ensuring their health and well being assumes a much greater importance.

However, building a strong republic composed of healthy citizens is a formidable undertaking that entails the collaboration and partnership with different sectors in society. Thus we enjoin various members of the health sector to contribute their share to this collective goal.

An empowered citizenry is crucial in building a healthy and strong republic. Providing people with accurate and relevant information is a step towards attaining this. Thus, the Philippine Dental Association has an important role to play in helping people take responsibility for their own health by raising people's awareness on the importance of oral health to their overall well being and development.

Together, let us work towards ensuring our Filipino people's access to quality, affordable dental healthcare for a healthier, stronger Philippine Republic. Mabuhay kayong lahat!

MANUEL DAYRIT, MD, MSc
Secretary of Health

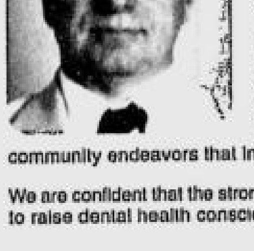


Fifty-three years ago, Presidential Proclamation No. 235 was formally signed by then President Elpidio Quirino declaring February 3-9 of each year as National Dental Health Week with the main objective of instilling oral health consciousness among the people.

The Philippine Dental Association, being the lead organization to drum up oral health awareness campaign among the populace, has initiated various programs year after year, to fittingly observe the annual celebration. While the majority of Filipinos still suffer from dental caries and periodontal diseases, we hope that the efforts of all our leaders and chapters nationwide will somehow help us achieve our goals. Despite some odds, we are looking forward to the government's initiative, and the help of the private sector to strengthen and solve deficiencies, in order to provide one unified direction in attaining oral health for our people.

To all our member dentists who are one with us in this thrust, Godspeed!

LUIS D. UY, DMD
President
Philippine Dental Association



As we celebrate the 53rd National Dental Health Week, we at Colgate salute the Philippine Dental Association for its relentless efforts in promoting good oral health to the Filipino nation.

Oral health is important to everybody's total well being. This thought is best reflected in this year's theme, "*Hustong Kalusugan, Maaaring Makamtan, Kapag Ngipi'y Aalagaan Para sa Kinabukasan.*" As always. Colgate continues to work with the PDA in the achievement of this goal.

In commemoration of the National Dental Health Week, Colgate is lending major support to worthwhile activities like "Kabarangay sa Dental Health", which provides free dental check-ups and oral health education to needy communities and "Smile Philippines!", a program where dental check-ups can be availed of for free. Colgate has also pursued school and community endeavors that inculcate dental awareness all year round.

We are confident that the strong alliance of PDA and Colgate, forged by a common vision, will continue to raise dental health consciousness among the Filipino people.

ANTONIO CAMPOS-NETO
President and General Manager
Colgate-Palmolive Philippines, Inc.

Dentists Launch Healthy Smile Contest

This is one beauty contest that is definitely not skin-deep. One is immediately convinced that it is not merely for show given the criteria for final judging: Talent and Personality, 40%; Dental Examination, 60%.

Initiated by the major association of dentists in the Philippines, the contest, dubbed as Healthy Smile, aims to underscore the importance of proper dental health care, especially among young people.

The contest is one of the projects of the Philippine Dental Association (PDA) being undertaken in observance of the 53rd National Dental Health Week, February 3-9, 2003. The theme for this year's celebrations is "Hustong Kalusugan, Maaaring Makamtan, Kapag Ngipi'y Aalagaan para sa Kinabukasan (Total Health is Attainable if Teeth are Protected All Year Long)." Colgate is a major sponsor of the Healthy Smile Contest.

Dr. Catherine Reyes, Chair of the Healthy Smile Contest, has issued the following guidelines: (1) contestant should be a Filipino citizen, elementary student in a private or public school, 6 to 8 years old, male or female; (2) he/she must be endorsed by a local chapter or affiliate society of the PDA; and (3) he/she must be medically and orally fit (no systemic diseases, no carious lesions, no restorative fillings and no malocclusion).

All children of PDA members are disqualified to join the contest.

Contestants are required to submit the following at the PDA headquarters on or before January 31, 2003: (1) medical certificate; (2) copy of his/her birth certificate; 3) properly filled up and signed registration form; and (4) pre-dental examination conducted and signed by the PDA chapter representatives.

The final judging shall be held on February 5, from 8 a.m. to 12 noon, at the PDA headquarters at the corner of Ayala Avenue corner Kamagong Street, Makati City. It shall include a dental examination of the contestants by the judges, an interview and a 5-minute talent presentation.

The following prizes shall be given to the winners: Mr. or Ms. Healthy Smile 2003 -- ₱3,000 and Colgate-Palmolive packs; 1st runner-up -- ₱2,000 and Colgate-Palmolive packs; 2nd runner-up -- ₱1,000 and Colgate-Palmolive packs. The winning chapters shall receive trophies.

For inquiries, please call Dr. Catherine Reyes at 820-9510.

Colgate Offers Redemption Promo with PDA and Mercury Drug

Colgate will hold an extended celebration of National Dental Health Week by spearheading "Smile Philippines!", a redemption promo that will run within the month of February.

"Smile Philippines!" is a joint project of Colgate, Mercury Drug and the Philippine Dental Association. It will be providing customers with basic dental check-ups for free.

To avail of the free dental service, customers must buy at least ₱100 worth of Colgate oral care products in selected Mercury Drug branches nationwide. Upon presentation of the receipt and proof of purchase at designated PDA clinics near Mercury Drug stores, the customer will be entitled to a free dental check-up and if needed, consultations and referrals.

"Smile Philippines!" will be held in 260 Mercury Drug branches nationwide. See flyers and posters for more details.

PDA Enjoins Dentists to Offer Discounts

"Please offer your patients a generous discount on dental services during the National Dental Health Week, or if you may, within the entire month of February."

This call has been issued by Dr. Luis D. Uy, President of the Philippine Dental Association, to all dental health professionals and practitioners nationwide, in line with the observance and celebration of the National Dental Health Week from February 3-9, 2003.

The PDA is also requesting dentists to put up streamers or banners announcing the National Dental Health Week, as well as their clinics' support for the event.

For the week-long celebration, the Philippine Dental Association has lined up a series of public service activities, including free cleft lip surgery and the "Libreng Pustiso" project to be conducted at the PDA Building in Makati City. The different chapters and affiliates of the PDA nationwide will also conduct indigency clinics and community outreach missions in their respective areas.

The PDA is holding these activities to help raise dental health awareness among Filipinos. This year's National Dental Health Week theme, "Hustong Kalusugan, Maaaring Makamtan, Kapag Ngipi'y Aalagaan Para Sa Kinabukasan," highlights the importance of conscientious dental care in the total health of an individual.

For inquiries or more information, the PDA can be contacted at telephone numbers 897-8091 and 890-4609. PDA's offices are located at Ayala Avenue cor. Kamagong Street, Makati City. Its e-mail address is phildentas@pda.org.ph

Get More Reasons to Smile With Colgate's Special Promo Packs

In an effort to further promote good oral health, Colgate is making available two special promo packs for the month of February. These special packs, which offer value for money, seek to encourage more Filipinos to take care of their teeth and gums.

The first promo pack has 150 ml Colgate Maximum Cavity Protection Great Regular Flavor bundled with a 90 g Palmolive Naturals Soap for FREE. Buyers of this special pack get ₱14.25 in savings.

In the second promo pack, Colgate Navigator Plus toothbrush is bundled with a 25 ml Fresh Confidence Xtreme Red Gel for FREE. This oral care pack gives savings of ₱14.25.

Colgate has come out with these special promo packs in celebration of the 53rd National Dental Health Week. They are available in retail outlets nationwide.

Join the Fun at Kiddie Dental Carnival

Start 'em young.

The dictum answers the question regarding the appropriate time for children to learn and acquire skills. This is especially true for training children about proper dental health care, as well as eliminating their fear of the dental clinic.

Dr. Maria Liza Centeno agrees with this dictum a hundred percent. "Caring for our children's precious set of teeth begins at a tender age," she says. "Similarly, regular visits to your children's dentist should begin even before a cavity becomes evident."

Dr. Centeno chairs a project that is putting up a Kiddie Dental Carnival at the Atrium A, Upper Ground Floor, Building A of the SM Megamall in Mandaluyong City. Slated to open on February 2, 2003, the carnival will feature puppet shows, storytelling by Kuya Bodjie, a parents' forum, games, dental archival exhibits and a poster and slogan contest. Prizes and giveaways await the winners and participants.

Colgate will participate in the Kiddie Dental Carnival via a Colgate Booth where free Colgate products will be given away. There will also be live appearances from Dr. Rabbit, the lovable mascot of Colgate's "Bright Smiles, Bright Futures" oral health education program. Animated video presentations on oral health will also be shown in the booth.

The carnival, which aims to help children acquire a positive attitude towards dental health care, will likewise offer free consultations for children.

The Kiddie Dental Carnival is one of the many activities that have been lined up by the Philippine Dental Association (PDA) for the 53rd National Dental Health Week on February 3-9, 2003. The carnival is a joint project of the PDA and the Philippine Pediatric Dental Society, Inc. (PPDSI), which is celebrating its 10th anniversary.

The theme for the upcoming dental health week is "Hustong Kalusugan, Maaaring Makamtan, Kapag Ngipi'y Aalagaan para sa Kinabukasan (Total Health is Attainable if Teeth are Protected All Year Long)." The annual affair is commemorated by the PDA in its effort to raise the consciousness of the people regarding the importance of taking proper care of one's teeth. Dental health is an integral component in the total and lifelong well being of a person - and it must start at an early age.

For details and inquiries regarding the Kiddie Dental Carnival, please call 531-5709 and look for Ms. Marlet Sion.

L HEALTH WEEK

February 3-9
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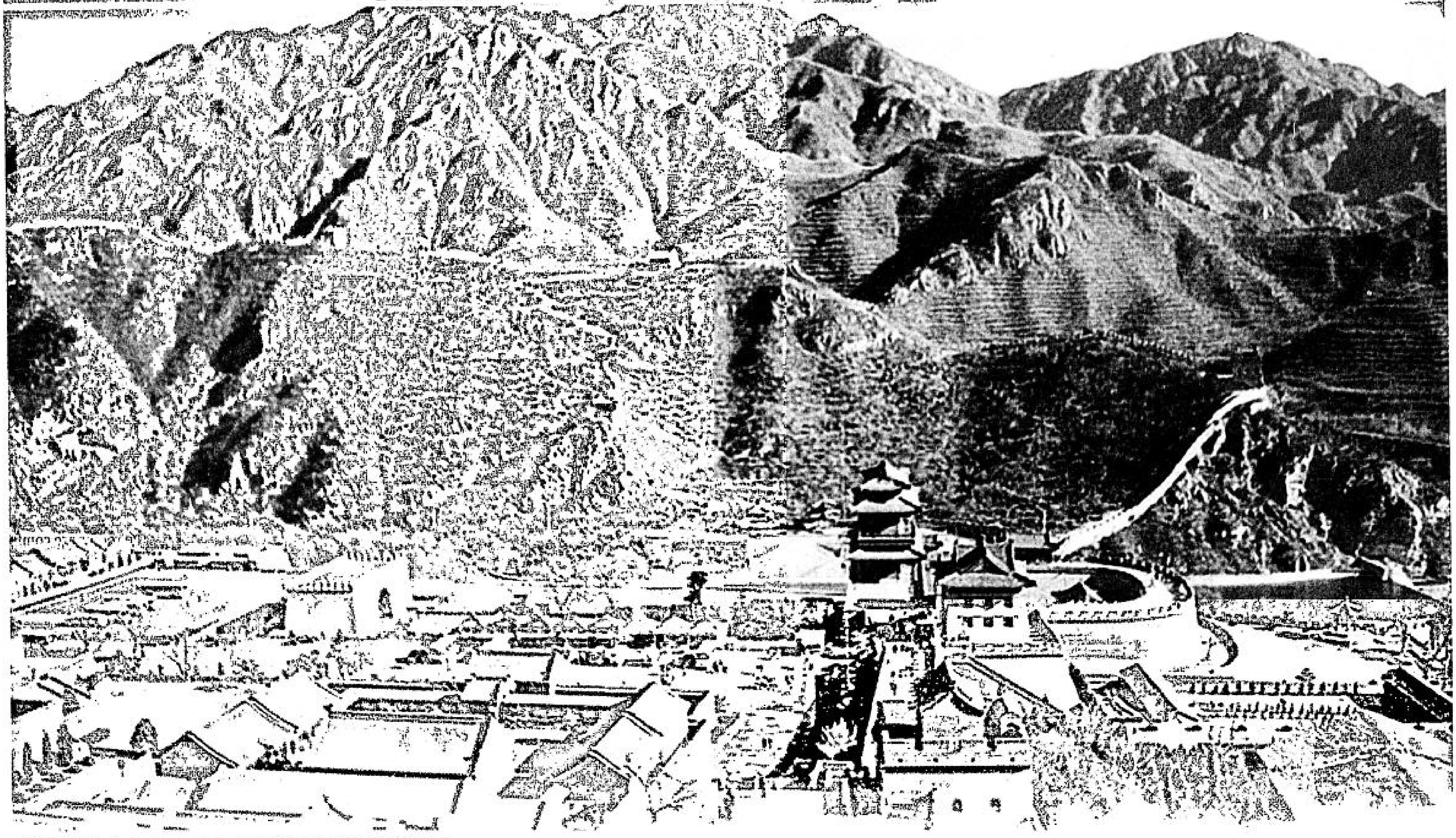
TRAVEL

Editor **Rosario A. Garcellano**



AWESOME: chain of mountains over which the Great Wall runs

Brave new world in China

By Abe Florendo
Contributor

FOR many people who grew up during the US propagandist era against Mao Zedong's communist China, the enduring picture of that country is one poor and bleak, where the people wear drab gray clothing and spend their desperate lives toiling in the icy fields from dawn to dusk.

> The change is miraculous, and the opulence is evident. But why do they look so glum?

Maybe it was true, in a greatly exaggerated way. Well, look at China now, showing itself as money-driven as any western-capitalist country and eager to embrace the commercial ideals of Coca-Cola and KFC.

Our first impression of China, particularly Shanghai and Beijing, the showcases of the new socialist market economy, is a mixture of awe and incredulity. Here are two cities bristling with high-rises (supplanting the intimate neighborhoods of *hutongs*), subways, six-lane expressways (one in Beijing, the Chang-an, stretches 50 kilometers and is completely unfriendly to the bicycle), and luxury hotels that signal a great leap forward to the moneyed lure of tourism.

The shining opulence is everywhere evident, but the industrious people look so glum. Perhaps generations of back-breaking toil have not taught them the fine points of enjoying a suddenly prosperous life? Perhaps they are too grimly determined to make more money than their country cousins can ever dream of? Some 80 million people still live below the poverty line.

The transformation of the two cities is nothing less than miraculous. "Twenty years ago, Shanghai [and Beijing] had nothing when Manila had its [light rail transit] and was beginning to build expressways and flyovers," says Oscar Chong Chit Sing, director of Panda Travel Service Inc. in Binondo, Manila, who led a group of travel agents, Philippine Airlines officers, and three journalists on a six-day tour in November.

Indeed, Manila today looks like it's still catching up with the 21st century, while Shanghai and Beijing are rushing headlong beyond the new millennium.

You will appreciate the modernity of Shanghai from the Oriental Pearl TV Tower in Pudong, which at 33 floors is the tallest in Asia and the third highest in the world. (The elevators take you up or down at 17 meters per second—statistics like this your tour guide in China will be eager to dispense.)

You will see below the Huangpu River, a tributary of the Yangzi River, dividing Shanghai into the old Puxi to the west and the Pudong New Area to the east. (It was its location at the mouth of the Yangzi that made Shanghai a prosperous port for merchants from America and Europe in the 19th century.) Puxi would be like old Manila and Pudong our Makati CBD. But the comparison ends there. A well-planned progress paints a better picture that has both the heritage of the old and the hubris of the new.

Shanghai has both the feel of the old European concessions or settlements, notably The Bund, and the look of the country's future. Before the war, Shanghai harbored fleeing Jews and White Russian aristocrats whose theaters and restaurants gave the port city its cosmopolitan character and, later, its twilight underworld of tea dancers and prostitutes (remember Marlene Dietrich in the movie "The Orient Express" and her famous line, "It took more than one man to make Shanghai Lily").

In the old days, Shanghai was known as the city of kidnappers. (As a verb in the English language, "shanghai" means to trick or force somebody into doing something.) This reputation served to give color to the thriving business of the Western traders and to heighten the notoriety of the feared Chinese gangsters riding in Chevrolets. It was a saying among the poor Shanghainese—who, along with dogs, were forbidden to tarry by the duck ponds in the parks of the settlements—that when times are harsh, you can go jump into the Huangpu. The Bund today is an impressive sycamore-lined avenue (called Waitan by the Shanghainese) whose skyline has not changed much since the 1930s and where, they say, the spirit of Shanghai Lily lives on.

The hotels in Shanghai range from the posh St. Regis, right in the heart of the central business district of Pudong ($136 for a deluxe room and $916 for a

BRAVE/ D7

FROZEN: Kunming Lake at the Summer Palace in Beijing

TRAVELBRIEFS

'Fiesta Tsinoy'

KAISA Para sa Kaunlaran Inc. yesterday launched "Fiesta Tsinoy 2003: Chinese Cultural Series," a yearlong activity highlighting the best of Chinese and Filipino cultures, at the Kaisa Heritage Center (KHC).

The launch was part of celebrations to mark Lunar New Year's Day.

Fiesta Tsinoy was launched in line with the Department of Tourism's Visit Philippines Year 2003 program. It was organized in association with the National Commission for Culture and the Arts and the Cultural Office of the Embassy of the People's Republic of China.

The KHC is located at Anda corner Cabildo Streets in Intramuros, Manila. It also houses Bahay Tsinoy: A Museum of Chinese in Philippine Life.

For inquiries, call 527-6083, 527-6798 and 526-6796, or e-mail kaisa@philonline.com.

Welcome for Malaysians

THE CHINESE Filipino Business Club (CFBC) recently met with Malaysian Economic Counselor and Trade Commissioner Raihan Sharif to plan activities for the arrival of 40 Malaysian businessmen.

The club is to provide assistance to the Malaysians in their search for business ventures that will generate jobs for Filipinos.

The CFBC was established in 1998 and has since been responsible for the holding of Filipino Chinese Friendship Day every June 9. Its activities include tax information campaigns, sending delegates on trade missions abroad and development of small and medium enterprises.

Valentine treats

FILIPINO couples planning their Valentine date are invited to check out Asiana Airlines' tour packages.

If you like bundling up and savoring the cold weather and shopping until your credit card heats up, or are dreaming of forming the first Philippine national ski team, the airline takes travelers to Seoul and beyond to enjoy the Korean winter.

Starting for as low as $588 for twin sharing, the basic package includes economy airfare, round-trip airport transfers, daily American breakfast and a half-day city tour of Seoul. Keep some luggage space ready for shopping bargains throughout Seoul, which is known as a shopper's paradise.

For an additional fee, there is the winter special: a one-day ski tour at a resort outside Seoul.

All packages are available until the end of the month.

For more information, call your travel agent or Asiana Airlines at 892-5696 to 98 or log on to www.flyasiana.ph.

* * *

AT THE DUSIT Hotel Nikko, a deluxe room is being offered for P3,000 net (valid on Feb. 14-16), with complimentary welcome drink for two and access to Ciao Ristorante's Special Valentine Show featuring the Retrospect and NT Wine.

An additional P2,200 net provides the same amenities plus dinner for two at Ciao, and a buffet breakfast for two at the Café (valid on Feb. 14 only).

All these perks are also included in the offer featuring an executive suite for P6,800 net (valid on Feb. 14 only).

These rates are available to local residents, *balikbayans*, and aliens with valid ACRs.

For inquiries, call the hotel's sales department at 867-3333.

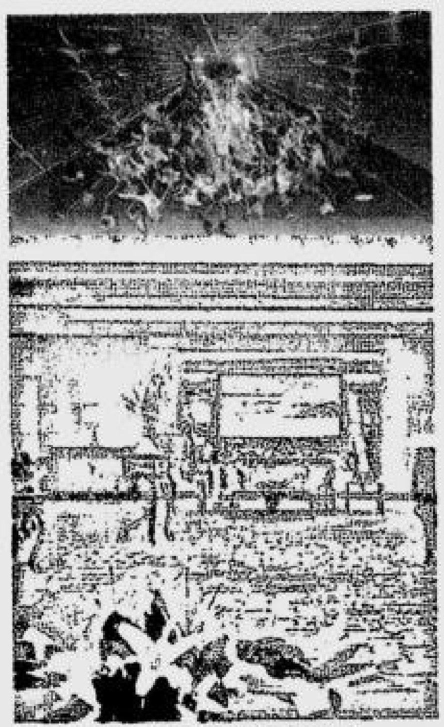
Brave new world in China

From page D6

suite), to the more budget-friendly Mayfair Hotel in the commercial Chang Ning district; the Hotel Equatorial, which is near the Shanghai Exhibition Center; and the Holiday Inn Crowne Plaza, which is said to serve the best breakfast in town. We stayed at the Regal East Asia, beside the Shanghai Olympic Center where elderly Chinese gather for their morning exercises. Across from the hotel is Hua Ting Hotel & Towers, one of the oldest hotels in Shanghai, which is undergoing renovation.

Our *viajeras*, the buy-and-sell entrepreneurs who discovered the bargain nooks and crannies of Hong Kong, are also now slowly discovering Shanghai and its *tiangges*. Xiangyang in Puxi is the paradise for fake brands or pirated items. We can't vouch for their quality but the prices are better than at the *tiangge* in our Greenhills: Rolex (or "Lolek") watches for 100 yuan (multiply times 6 for peso equivalent); pashmina scarves for 20 yuan; Nike Shox for 190 yuan. (If you love to haggle, you can get these for even less.)

More discerning shoppers can hie off to the large department stores in Nanjing Lu, while those who wish to bring home a bit of China—patterned silks, fans with Chinese-opera characters, sweets (they sugar-coat everything, from fruits to vegetables), tea, cashmere, woolen garments—will be better off at the small friendship shops, especially those at the Yu Garden in the old Chinatown of Shanghai.



SWANK: Kerry Centre in Beijing

Don't bother to look for genuine Chinese antiques. They've all gone to Hong Kong.

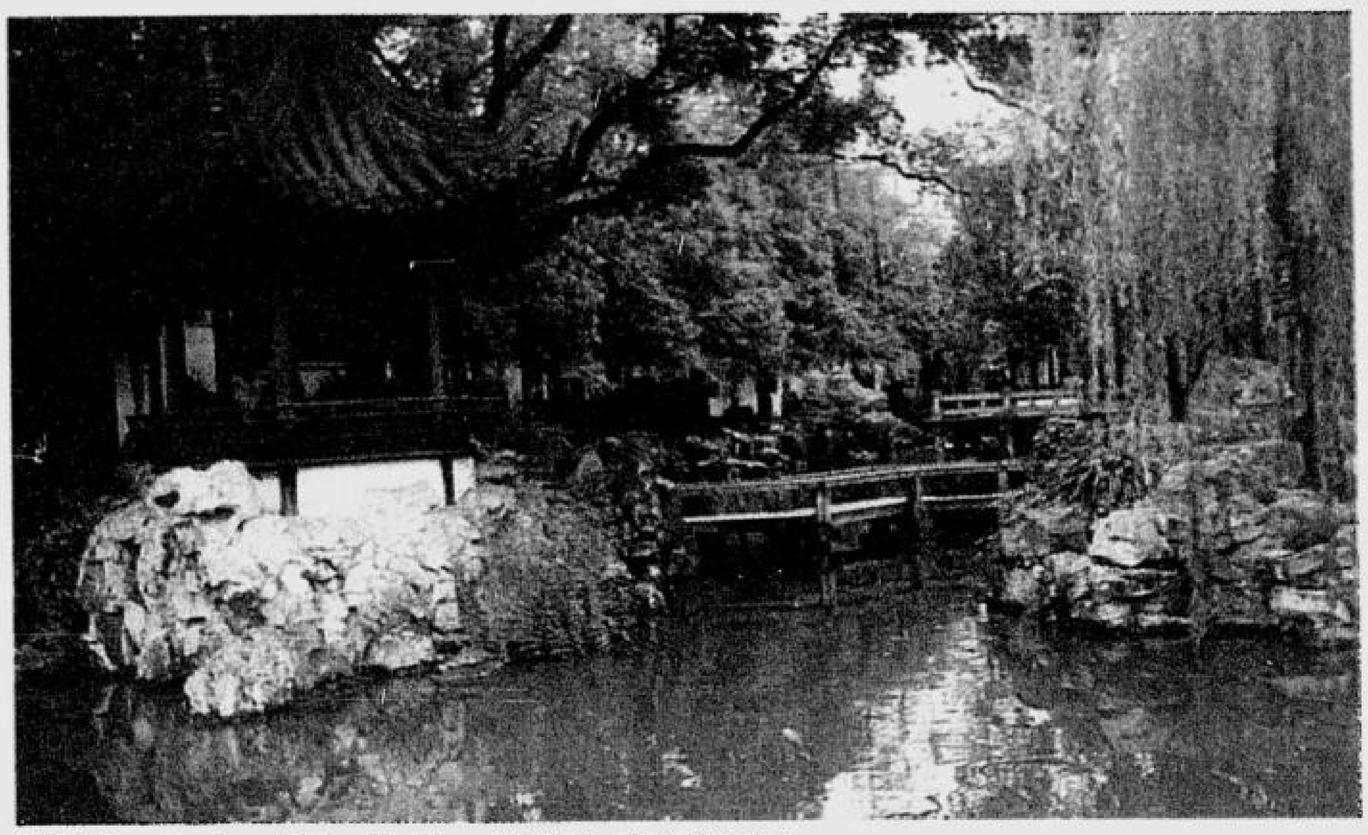
Now, if you wish to do the nightlife like the young, cosmopolite Shanghainese do, go to the Xintiandi district, where the old houses along the *hutongs* have been transformed into chi-chi bars, restaurants and cafés, a la Adriatico, but with better concept and design. Here, of course, the most affordable drink is the cappucino at Starbucks.

After the sojourn in Shanghai, we took the epic 14-hour overnight ride by train from Shanghai to Beijing. It's a cost-saving trip for budget-conscious tourists— and a comfortable one, too. The four-bunk compartment has clean linen, and the restaurant and bar menu is adequate for your needs, just don't demand Peking duck. (Many passengers dine on Kentucky Fried Chicken, which they can take out at the train station before departure.)

You share toilets with the occupants of three or four compartments. On the train, as elsewhere in China, most toilets are the squat-type, very uncomfortable to many Westerners, although you don't have to worry about unclean toilet seats.

There was no snow in this cold and dry northern city that late November, but the temperature was a freezing 3 or 4 degrees. The temperature normally plunges to minus 5 degrees between December and March. For touring in the north, spring and autumn can be the best times: There's less rain, clearer skies.

From the train windows, the sight of constructions of mammoth skyways rising from barren fields in the outskirts of the city prepares you for the spectacle of a city modernizing beyond the vision of Deng Xiaoping, who has said, "There's no need to be afraid of capitalism." Outside the gleaming art-deco train station in Beijing were huddles of people from the provinces hoping and failing to get a job in the city—the dour other side of Deng's vision. People from the countryside, who comprise 80 percent of the country's population, are indeed taking to heart Deng's famous utterance, "To get rich is glorious."



IDYLLIC: pond and manufactured boulders at the Yu Garden in Shanghai

Beijing is a picture of an overheated economy, fueled by an open-door policy and massive foreign investments as well as the entrepreneurial spirit of a people strong enough to rouse the sleeping giant. Greater freedoms, launched after the grim lessons of the Tiananmen Square massacre in the spring of 1989, gave social and economic progress greater impetus—and a new meaning to the old Chinese saying, "Heaven is high and the emperor is far away."

What you see in Beijing today would have been unthinkable 20 years ago.

Beijing, as old as human civilization, lies south of the Central Asian steppes and is separated from the Gobi desert by a chain of mountains over which runs the Great Wall. When a strong wind blows in Beijing, desert sand smarts your eyes. But these days the smarting is more likely to be caused by dust from the highrise constructions continually going on.

Dust or time has not obliterated the splendor of imperial China. No words can adequately describe the Forbidden City, the 74-hectare complex of palaces, home of the emperors from 1420 (when it was built) until 1924 (when Puyi, the last of the Qing emperors, left it), or the Great Wall, the longest, oldest and most time-consuming construction project in the history of mankind.

There's so much more to be explored by intrepid tourists—temples and palaces, historical sites and marvelous landscapes—although it seems that the best of them would require you to walk through kilometer-long corridors, amble across vast courtyards, and climb steep mountainsides.

Before 1980 the Chinese did not know how to run a modern hotel. Now, there are quite a number of star-rated hotels in Beijing, including the China World, managed by Shangri-La and said to be the best in this city; the Crowne Plaza Beijing, right in the heart of the tourist and shopping district on Wangfujing Avenue; the Beijing New Century Hotel, just minutes from Zhong Guan Cun, the city's high-tech/IT zone; and the Kerry Centre Hotel, which is located in the central business district. Depending on location and star status, rates range from $260 for a deluxe room to $2,000 for a presidential suite.

We stayed at the newly opened Marco Polo Hotel where the rooms are comfortable and the service efficient—except, again, that the waiters and waitresses looked so dour. The rooms face the Tiananmen Square, vastly empty by day and magically lighted by night.

In the afternoon of the day before we left Beijing, we walked across the Square followed by the gaze of the Great Leader Chairman Mao, whose huge portrait hangs above the southernmost gate—the Gate of Heavenly Peace—of the Forbidden City. The Square was desolate, swept by a cold wind—but lo, soaring and diving gracefully in the air were enchanting little kites flown by elderly men, who were also peddling them for a few yuan.

There must be a meaning there somewhere, a shining metaphor for China today, but we were too cold to allow a flash of illumination to sink in.

Philippine Airlines flies to Shanghai daily except Monday. For group or individual tours, contact Panda Travel Service, Manila agent of the Shanghai China Travel Service, at (632) 242-2585, fax (632) 242-2650, or e-mail panda@pandatour.com.

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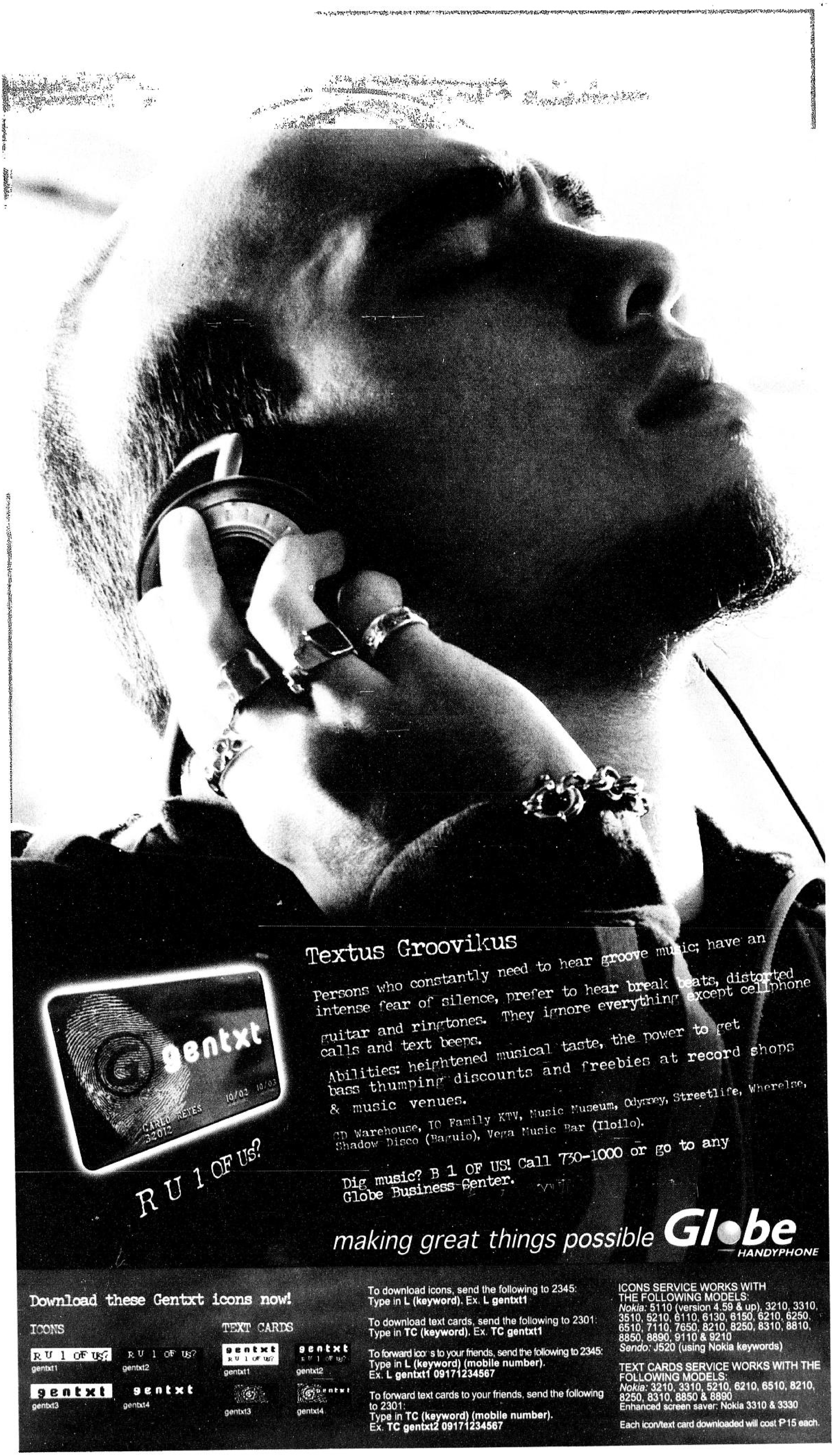

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Sunday LIFESTYLE
Weddings & Engagements

Preparing for the big day with *little effort*

The first bridal fair of the year will help make preparing for your wedding a breeze

By Allison W. Lopez

WINDOW-SHOP for your wedding at the Westin Philippine Plaza.

With "Weddings by Westin" on Feb. 9 at the hotel's completely renovated Grand Plaza Ballroom, the first bridal fair of the year, preparing for your big day can be a breeze.

The annual fair, which is open and free to the public, will feature a number of wedding planners, suppliers, service providers, even interactive workshops. Highlight of the event will be the launch of Westin's transparent tent, the first of its kind in a hotel in the country, with a grand 45-piece bridal fashion show titled "Traje de Boda" by top designer Rajo Laurel.

"Silhouettes and the color pink are the bridal trends this year. Most of my brides also want white—not cream, not ecru, but white," says Laurel.

The bridal show, which will be Laurel's first since 2001, will surely be a feast for the eyes. His 2003 bridal collection will introduce four suites: Asiatique, which will showcase Asian-inspired gowns; Romantic, inspired by the Jane Austen novels; Classic, which borders on the traditional; and Individual, the avant-garde fashion of the four.

Designing for women

"The bride is my inspiration," Laurel explains. "Each bride has her own personality, needs and quirks. It is she that I have in mind when I design bridal gowns."

The fair opens at 10 a.m. with a Wedding Gown Exhibit by some of the country's top fashion designers. Panel discussions and interactive sessions on wedding preparations and marriage will follow. Married couples Anthony and Maricel Pangilinan, Sonny and Deedee Siytangco, as well as sweethearts Julius Babao and Christine Bersola, will share the joys and complexities of an intimate relationship; lawyers Katrina Legarda and Jesse Andres will discuss "Lawfully Wedded," the legal aspects of marriage; and Olen Lim and Arsi Baltazar, "Beautiful Brides." Grooms can learn about looking their best with "Groom Styling" by Nyork Design Group's Miguel Leyva.

For a lovely setting, there will be Theme Table Set-Ups inspired by traditional, classic, Zen and Asian motifs. A Honeymoon Fashion presentation will feature the hotel's Heavenly Beds.

Swarovski's new collection, which will be presented in the fair, is another treat to look

PREPARING/ E2

SWEET SURRENDER. Model Amanda Griffin in Rajo Laurel's Romantic gowns (above and top photos)

PHOTOS BY RAYMUND ISAAC

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God takes His time answering a prayer

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THE TOLDOYA family: Emilie, Joe, Ivy, Paul and Jess

'I was beginning to feel disappointed after waiting for 38 years'

By Boy Blue Filomeno
Contributor

ONE of the most important prayers I made was for God to choose my lifetime partner.

I was beginning to feel disappointed after waiting for 38 years. I was partly to blame since I dated only once in a blue moon. When no one came along when I reached 35, I wondered if God was listening to my prayer.

Ours is a closely knit family and I love kids. My constant companion in going to church, the movies, and swimming and playing basketball are my five nephews. Often, people mistake me for their father.

My mother, eldest sister and nephews encouraged me to settle down. Then God answered my prayers. Before I turned 38 on April 27, I met Caroline del Moro Camilon through a mutual friend.

At first, I was hesitant, though she was a very nice person. But after I had mustered the courage, the relationship moved faster and in less than a month, we were engaged. I guess when two people are ready, it does not take long for them to make the trip to the altar.

Caroline is the eldest in a brood of six. Her father died many years back, so I had to ask for her hand in marriage from her mother.

With the blessing of my parents, Fred and Sasing Filomeno, and her mom, Espie Camilon, we set the wedding date for Oct. 26 at the Immaculate Conception Parish in Pasig City. Fr. Andre Querijero, OCD, officiated.

THE AUTHOR with his bride Caroline

Our principal sponsors included Senator Manuel Villar, presidential adviser on Agricultural Modernization Angelito Sarmiento, Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council chair Michael Defensor, Rep. Rolando Andaya Jr., Rep. Robert Ace Barbers, Rep. Ernie Clarete, lawyers Homobono Adaza, Paulino Cases and Henrietta Silos-Mendez, Justice Mercedes Dadole, INQUIRER editor-in-chief Letty Jimenez-Magsanoc, Henrietta Pilapil-Reverente, Lorna Toldoya, Gliceria Cendana, Nenita Canuel, Dulce Raneses, Shirley Ibanez and Evangeline Filomeno.

The rest of the entourage were lawyer Homobono Adaza II, best man; Noreen Gocon, maid of honor; Manny Donato III, Glenn Aguda and Dave Filomeno, groomsmen; Christine Camilon, Norie Niogan and Riza Raneses, bridesmaids; Joe Toldoya and Michelle Valbuena, candle; Ted Herbosa and Maan Carpio, veil; Christopher Camilon and Lizel Trespeses, cord; Carl Cuyos, ring bearer; Angel Filomeno, coin bearer; Jerome Semillano, Bible bearer; Mikee Manahan, Ysabella Guimba, Regine Raneses, Bianca Camilon and Patrice Semillano, flower girls; Earl Filomeno and Ryan Filomeno, ushers.

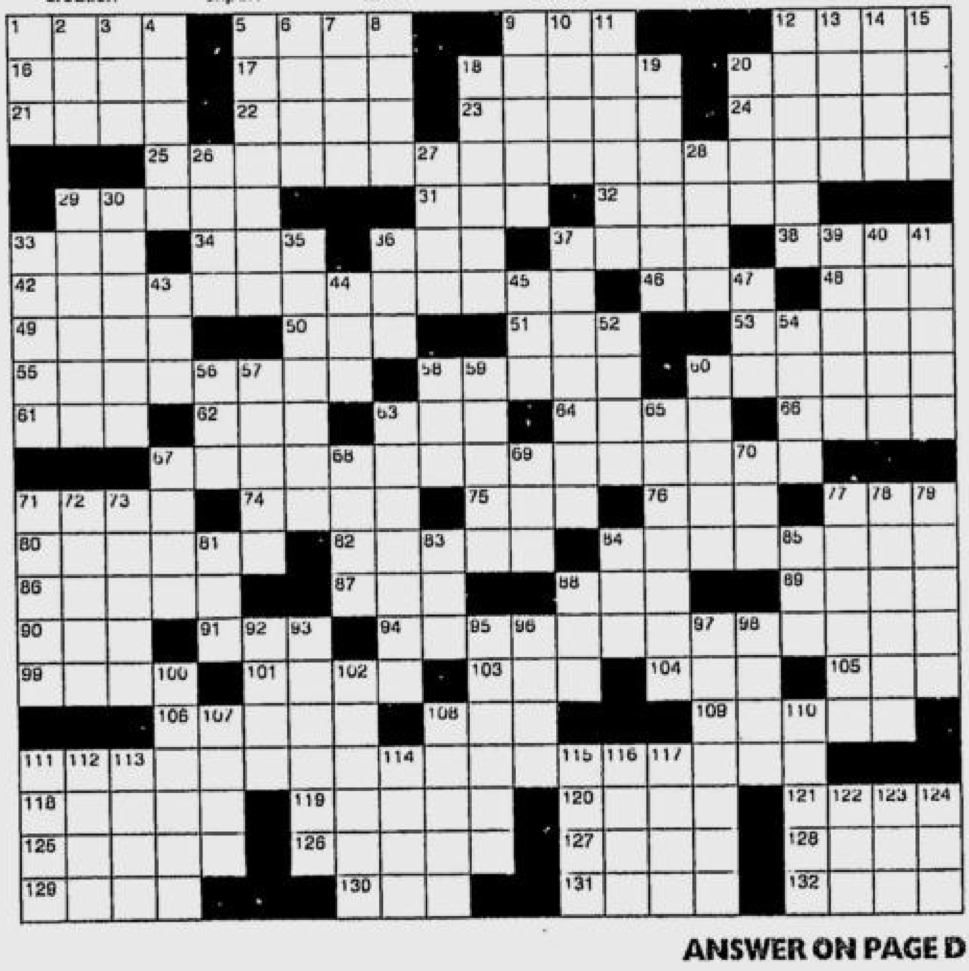
Edward Teng designed the bride and groom's outfit, in coordination with Jojo Canes.

SUNDAY CROSSWORD

PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Donna J. Stone

ACROSS
1 Mr. Diller
5 Domino or Waller
9 It may be strapless
12 Request an encore
16 Done
17 Rock's Quiet —
18 Jagger and Jones
20 Snapshot
21 Mediterranean port
22 Actress Paquin
23 Home, to Hopalong?
24 Poet Conrad
25 Escalator stocks . . .
29 Exhausted
31 Aye opponent
32 "Bolero" composer
33 Pigeon English?
34 "Angela's Ashes" sequel
36 Dandy dude?
37 "I could — horse!"
38 Read quickly
42 Mining shares . . .
46 Tolkien creation
48 Neighbor of Tenn.
49 Notes from Verdi?
50 Noun suffix
51 "The Simpsons" character
53 Propelled a shell
55 First name in art
58 Hitching post?,
60 Fleet
61 Boxer Norton
62 Ferret's foot
63 Bandleader Lyman
64 Despot
66 List entry
67 Diaper stocks . . .
71 Mock
74 Pole star?
75 Daniel — -Lewis
76 Diving bird
77 Comic Philips
80 Physicist Fermi
82 Surrealist Max
84 Chorus
86 Playground feature
87 Actress Susan
88 Flicka's food
89 Wan
90 Chinese export
91 Mouth piece?
94 Cutlery shares . . .
99 Active volcano
101 Some computers
103 Chanteuse Lemper
104 Cobb and Hardin
105 '75 Abba tune
106 Polish coin
108 One — million
109 Like a hot fudge sundae
111 Barbell stocks . . .
118 Actor Warner
119 Cold sound
120 Bronte heroine
121 Crazy
125 Victorian wit
126 Cut
127 — J. Pakula
128 Spirit
129 Baseball's Sammy
130 Farm feature
131 Tardy
132 Barber's cry?

DOWN
1 Driving hazard
2 Palindromic name
3 Pince- —
4 Singer Slick
5 Overwrought
6 "— No Sunshine" ('71 hit)
7 Author Morrison
8 Mikita or Musial
9 Like some eyes
10 Rave's partner
11 With 69 Down, fluffy feline
12 Flu symptom
13 Valhalla villain
14 "— o'clock scholar"
15 Cornmeal concoction
18 Stargazed
19 Hardly hyper
20 New York university
26 Aware of
27 Textbook heading
28 Writer Hunter
29 Posh party
30 Elixir
33 Teacher's aid
35 Logging-camp feature
36 Provost of "Lassie"
37 Compassion
39 Metal measure
40 — la Cite
41 Lady of the house
43 Fled
44 Start to cry?
45 — bran
47 Rocky hill
52 — Major
54 In the thick of
56 Gibbon or gorilla
57 Stallone role
58 — Dhabi
59 — a hand (aids)
60 Press one's point
63 Poppins' portrayer
65 Equity expert
67 Actor Wallace
68 Enraged
69 See 11 Down
70 Just manage, with "out"
71 "Beau —" ('39 film)
72 Cove
73 Jones of the Stones
77 Slip by
78 Tennis great Gardnar
79 Accepts authority
81 "Aladdin" frame
83 Carrie or Louis
84 Opening
85 EMT's skill
88 Shade
92 "— Fire" ('85 hit)
93 Turkish titles
95 "Guys and Dolls" author
96 Coup d'—
97 Cleanliness
98 "Unto us — is given"
100 Schedule
102 People from Prague
107 Take a taxi
108 Tower material?
110 Brash Nash
111 Tiers
112 Gallimaufry
113 Maglie and Mineo
114 "Cat on — Tin Roof"
115 Actual
116 Auel heroine
117 "Confound it!"
122 Stout relative
123 Send out a page
124 Big bang letters



ANSWER ON PAGE D3

Preparing for the big day . . .

From page E1

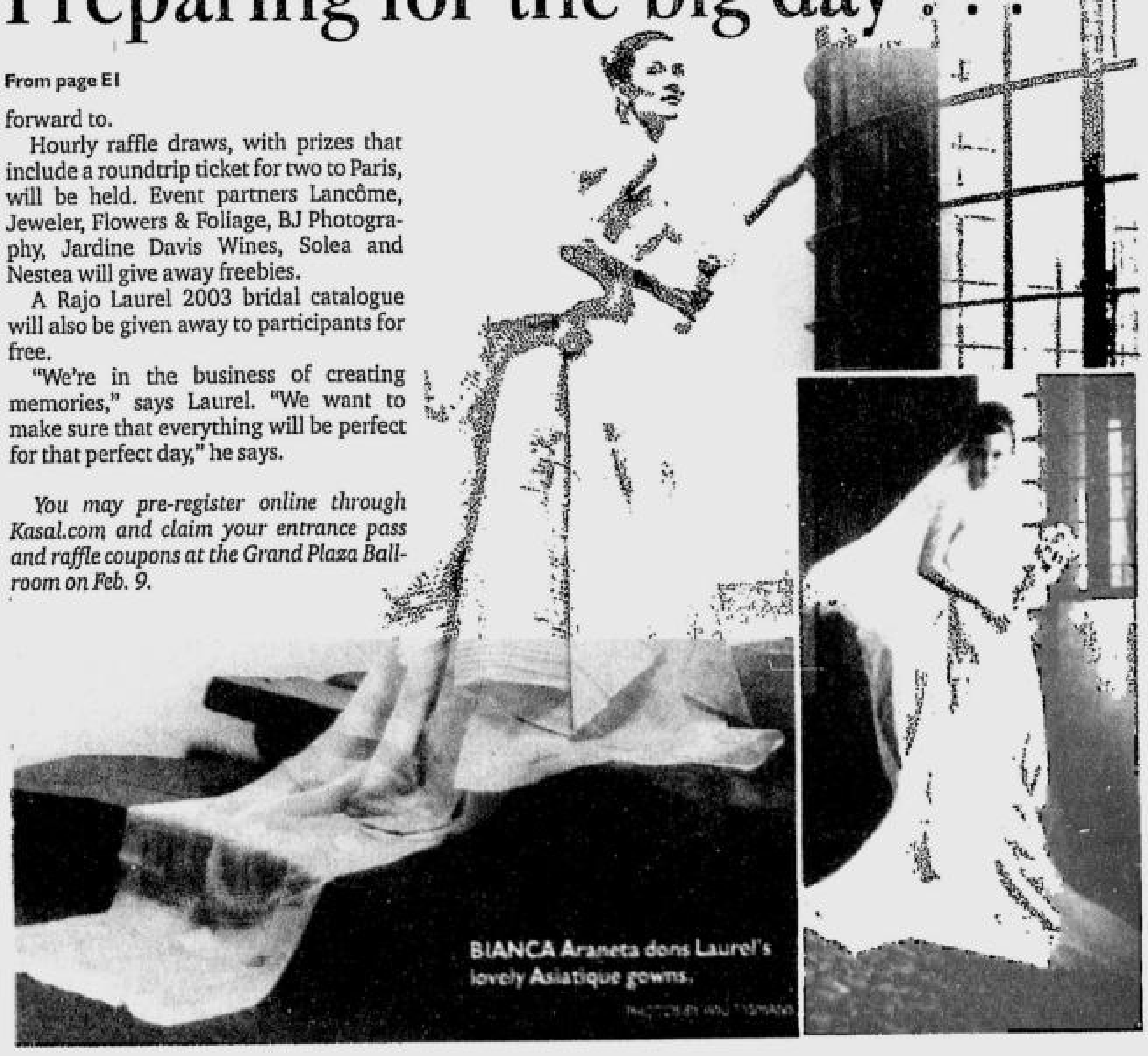
forward to.

Hourly raffle draws, with prizes that include a roundtrip ticket for two to Paris, will be held. Event partners Lancôme, Jeweler, Flowers & Foliage, BJ Photography, Jardine Davis Wines, Solea and Nestea will give away freebies.

A Rajo Laurel 2003 bridal catalogue will also be given away to participants for free.

"We're in the business of creating memories," says Laurel. "We want to make sure that everything will be perfect for that perfect day," he says.

You may pre-register online through Kasal.com and claim your entrance pass and raffle coupons at the Grand Plaza Ballroom on Feb. 9.



BIANCA Araneta dons Laurel's lovely Asiatique gowns.

[illegible]

Her father is abusive

LIVE AND LET LIVE

Tita Dulce

DEAR Tita Dulce,

Since my father retired, he has been wasting his pension on gambling. When he loses, he nags and complains about household expenses. When something goes wrong, it is always our fault or somebody else's but never his.

That's why I thank God that I found work after graduating from college last year. It has reduced the tension at home because I help in footing some bills and I've been paying my mom for the debt I incurred for my education.

I also suspect Dad of having an affair. My brother and I often catch him on the phone, talking to a woman. I often think of hiring a private detective to get proof of Dad's infidelity. Maybe he'll reform when confronted.

Mom doesn't know about the other woman. I don't know what she'll do when she learns of it. She wanted to leave Dad many times before, but she stayed because of me and my brother who still goes to school.

Dad hurts her verbally and physically, and when they fight he yells so loud that the neighbors know about it. He has also been quite temperamental.

I know it's wrong, but I hate my father. I want to live away from him since I can afford that now, but I worry about leaving Mom and my brother behind.

A DAUGHTER

You said he did not impress you as a gambler before. That's interesting, because if he was responsible and loving before, then his hateful behavior now might indicate that he needs help more than you do.

Some spouses come to a point where they feel they had loved their family for too long and did not have time to pursue their own happiness. If that feeling dominates their mind when they're in their 50s and 60s, they might also feel that they have little time left to enjoy life.

Those men, then, could become bitter and they might express that bitterness through selfish and abusive behavior as your father's.

If you think that might be true in your father's case, it would be best that he undergoes professional counseling. It will probably be very difficult to convince him to do that, given his character. Just the same, you must try your best.

Ask your pastor or parish priest or anyone whom your father respects to convince him to get professional help. That would mean, of course, that you would be divulging your family problem (including your Dad's suspected infidelity) to a third party.

But don't let that stop you. If, as you said, your father yells at your mother a lot, then half of your barangay probably already knows your problem anyway.

Involving a third party can have other benefits. For one, it can burst your father's impression (delusion?) that you are all under his control. That certainly can't be the case if you still have the wit to call for outside help.

Secondly, it can help him realize that his difficult behavior has become more than a spouse or children can normally handle. Third, it gives your Mom and you someone to corroborate your complaint. You should have to leave him after your efforts fail.

Your mother, your brother and you could use some professional counseling, too, even if your Dad refuses to undergo one himself.

And because your counselor would have more details about your problem, she would be in the best position to suggest if you should move out of your home now or—if you shouldn't yet—what you could do to improve the situation in your home.

Seminar for counselors

Dear Tita Dulce,

I'm a practicing psychiatrist and geriatrician based in St. Jude General Hospital (Dimasalang corner Don Quijote, Sampaloc, Manila). I'm also a member of various professional and civic organizations, and a college professor.

I feel it would be most apt to invite through your column everyone who is interested (counselors, parents, students) to our counseling skills interactive seminar, Helping the Youth Cope with Parental Separation.

It will be held at the 5th floor of St. Jude General Hospital on Sunday, Feb. 16, 1-4 p.m. Participants may pre-register for P150 or register on-site for P200. I may be reached at 0919-8901933 for details.

Also, should you feel I could help your vocation in any way that is related to my specialty, please don't hesitate to call me.

DR. GERARDINE JOSEFINA L. SAYO

Thank you very much,. Dr. Sayo, for your kind words.

I encourage readers to attend your seminar as well as to spread the word about it: The price is very affordable, and the content promises to be very valuable. I hope you and your group will organize more such activities that are open to laymen.

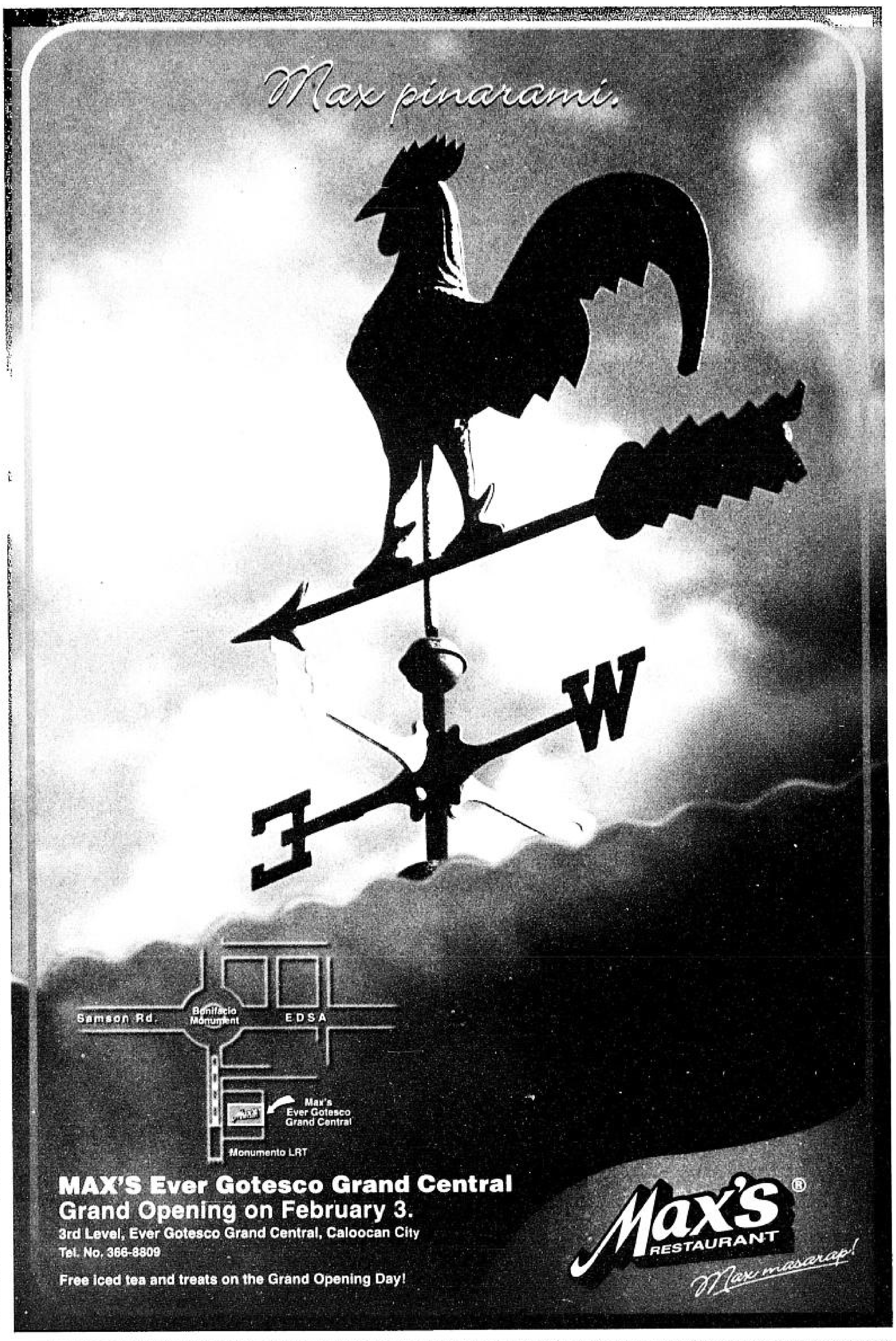
An appeal

I'm taking this opportunity to appeal to psychiatrists, psychologists and counselors to help our letter-senders. I'm particularly calling the attention of the societies of psychiatrists and psychologists as they have chapters nationwide and are more accessible to patients outside Metro Manila.

Please write or e-mail your contact numbers and free clinic schedules. Many of our countrymen, however, can't afford the regular cost of your services, and I've overloaded the few professional counselors I know with the charity cases I refer to them.

E-mail titadulce@netscape.net or send letters to P.O. Box 2353, Makati CPO 1263 Makati City, or PDI, Chino Roces Avenue corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati City

CELEBRATION OF ROMANCE
Manila Galleria Suites in Ortigas Center celebrates love and romance in its annual Bride & Deb's Fair entitled "Love is in the Fair" on May 16 and 17 at the hotel's Manansala Hall. The two-day affair will feature a fashion show and exhibits from the country's best bridal suppliers. Photo shows Behind the Scene's Arnold Cruz, CEO and creative director Ricci Reyes-Ang, 2171 Flower Creations proprietor Joyce Aguilar, Manila Galleria Suites' Eunice Acejo and Ross Mapanao. Call Manila Galleria Suites at 633-7111 extensions 7436 / 7313 or Behind the Scene Productions at 437-0591.



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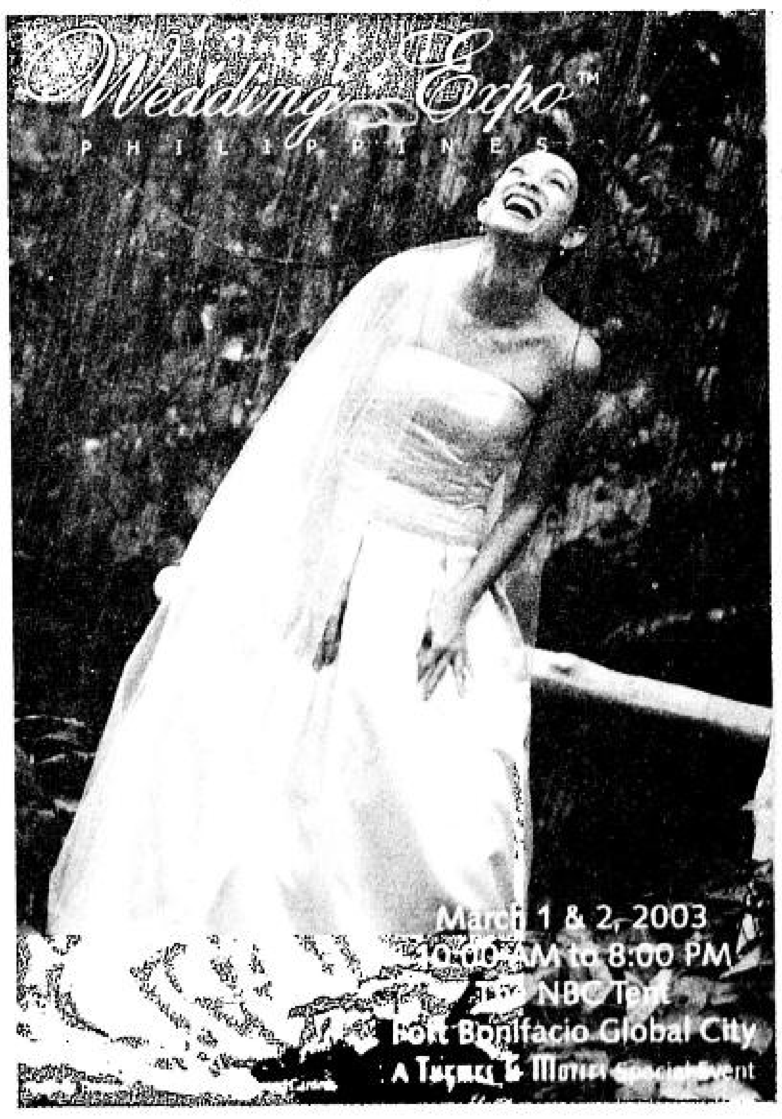

March 1 & 2, 2003
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Get the chance to
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Promo Mechanics
1. The promo starts on March 1, 2003 and ends on March 2, 2003.
2. It is open to all Wedding Expo Philippines visitors, 18 years old and above.
3. Every P 1,000.00 accumulated receipt purchase/booking of any participating exhibitors product / service entitles the customer to one (1) raffle coupon.
4. All booking / purchase receipts may be exchanged for the corresponding number of coupons at the Information Center located inside the NBC Tent.
5. To join the raffle promo, the customer must fill-out the raffle coupon with his/her complete name, address, telephone number and affix his/her signature before dropping the entries in the drop box located in the Information Center. Deadline for dropping of entries is on March 2, 2003 at 5:00 p.m.
6. The draw will be held at the cocktail grounds of the NBC Tent on March 2, 2003 at 6:30 p.m. under the supervision of the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) representative.
7. Trip package to Hong Kong includes: Round-trip ticket ticket to Hong Kong for two (2) (Mla -Hong Kong-Mla.), and accomodation for 3 days, 2 nights
8. The winner will be notified through telephone and registered mail and may claim their prize within sixty (60) days from the receipt of notification and upon presentation of winning stub and valid identification such as company ID, passport, driver's license, GSIS or SSS
9. Plane tickets and trip vouchers may be claimed at Themes and Motifs Head Office at 16 West Riverside St., SFDM, Q.C.
10. Themes & Motifs shall shoulder 20% prize tax. Securing of travel documents, application costs and travel tax shall be the responsibility of the winner.
11. The winner can avail the trip within 12 months from the date of issuance but is subject to the airline booking requirements.
12. The winner may convert the Trip to Hong Kong package to cash (P20,000.00) but may not transfer the same to another person.
13. Themes and Motifs shall not be liable for any accidents or any untoward incidents such as sickness, loss of personal belongings that may occur during the trip.
14. The prize, if not claimed within sixty (60) days after notification will be forfeited in favor of Themes and Motifs with prior approval of DTI.
15. Employees of Themes and Motifs, participating sponsors, exhibitors including their relatives up to the second degree of consanguinity or affinity are disqualified from joining the promo.

Per DTI NCR Permit 0364, Series of 2003

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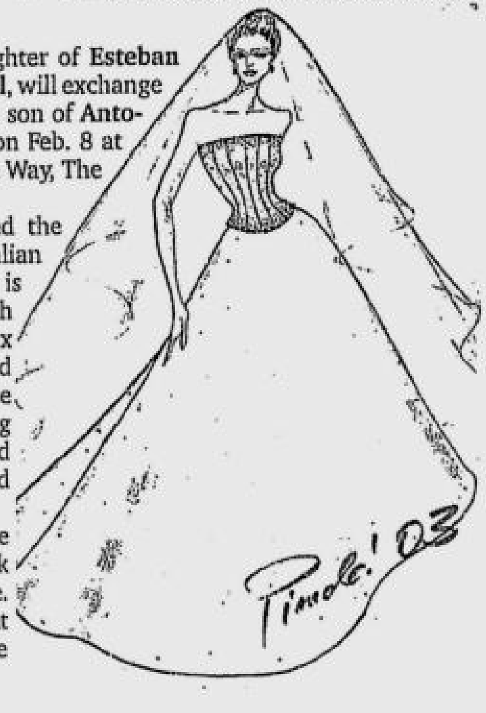
Milestones

We're accepting announcements of weddings and engagements. Please send the following typewritten information: names of engaged couple, names of parents, date and place of wedding, gown designer and other related information. Readers can send sketches of gowns and pictures of the couple at least two weeks before the wedding. This will be printed depending on space availability and at no cost to the sender.



UY-CLARAVALL

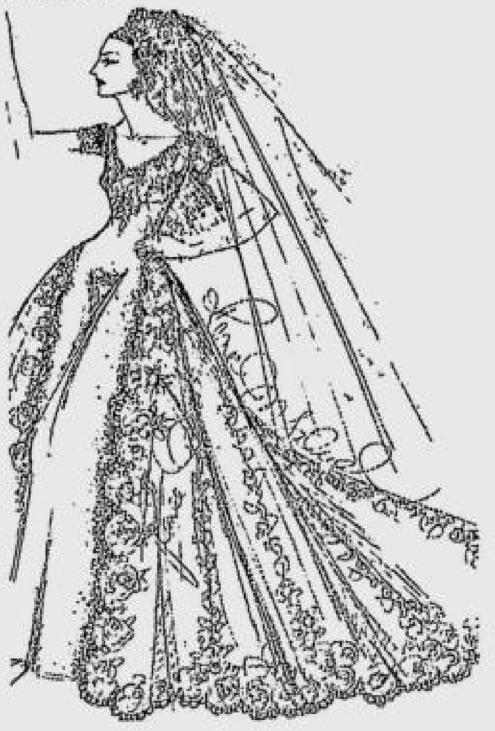
Jane Claravall, daughter of **Esteban** and **Carmelita Claravall**, will exchange vows with **Sherwin Uy**, son of **Antonio** and **Conchita Uy**, on Feb. 8 at the Shrine of Jesus, The Way, The Truth and the Life.

Eric Pineda designed the bride's gown in ivory Italian satin. The corset top is heavily embellished with iridescent sequins, faux pearls, caviar beads and rhinestones. The bride will wear a 10-yard long veil of illusion tulle held by floral-shaped Swarovski crystals.

The female entourage will wear shantung silk gowns in sunset orange. Reception will follow at the Grand Ballroom of The Heritage Hotel Manila.

PESTAÑO DEBUT

Jamay Patricia Jose Pestaño, daughter of **Jimmy** and **Jo Pestaño**, celebrated her 18th birthday yesterday at the Manila Diamond Hotel. Her gown was designed by **Edd Sy**.



DE JESUS-GERONIMO

Lawyer **Clodualdo Antonio R. de Jesus Jr.**, son of lawyers **Clodualdo** and **Carolina de Jesus**, and Dr. **Olivia O. Geronimo**, daughter of **Eleuterio** and **Olympia Geronimo**, will exchange marriage vows on Feb. 9 at the San Agustin Church, Manila. Fr. **Gerardo R. Tapiador** will officiate. Reception will follow at the Maynila Ballroom of the Manila Hotel. The bride's gown and the groom's barong are creations of **Renée Salud**. The event will be covered by Media Streak.

CREECH-MODENA

Christopher Creech, son of Mr. and Ms **Rodney Creech** of Richmond, Indiana, USA, recently exchanged marriage vows with **Aurora Khaylon Modena**, daughter of Mr. and Ms **Antonio Modena** of Cainta, Rizal. Reception followed at Mama Rosa's Restaurant on Timog Avenue, QC.

The couple is shown here with their daughter, **Runé Hikari Celeste**.

GERONIMO-QUIOCHO

Raundolf Reychard Geronimo, son of **Vidal** and **Irma Geronimo**, recently married **Michelle Quiocho**, daughter of **Estefanio** and **Resurrecion Quiocho**, at Our Lady of Remedies Parish, Malate, Manila. Reception followed at the Embassy ballroom of Traders Hotel, Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City. The bridal gown was created by **Ramon Santiago** and **Ferdie Granil** of Maestro Nueno; hair and makeup by **Ferdie Santos**.

VILLAMIN-OCZON GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY

Sergio Marte Villamin and **Florencia Masangkap Oczon** will renew their marriage vows on their 50th wedding anniversary at Mary the Queen Parish Church, Greenhills West, San Juan, on Feb. 16. A dinner reception will follow at Garcia Villa Balagtas, The Peninsula Manila, Makati City.

RALLOS-MACASA

Maria Felvie Macasa, daughter of **Felipe** and **Violeta Macasa**, recently wed **Kenneth Lim Rallos**, son of **Achilles** and **Maria Lourdes Rallos** of Davao City, at the San Antonio de Padua Church in Agdao, Davao City. Dinner reception followed at Kuya Ed's Restaurant. The flower arrangements of lilium and gerbera were done by **Edita Lagbao** of Skyline Catalunan Grande.

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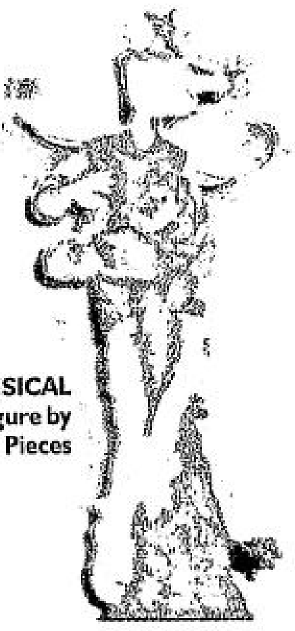
Per DTI-NCR permit no. A2-038 series of 2003

Pinoy holiday zest in cold Frankfurt



A WHIMSICAL Christmas figure by Accent Pieces

Text and photos by Alex Y. Vergara

IF BUYERS won't come to the Philippines, the country's intrepid and resourceful exporters will bring their products to them.

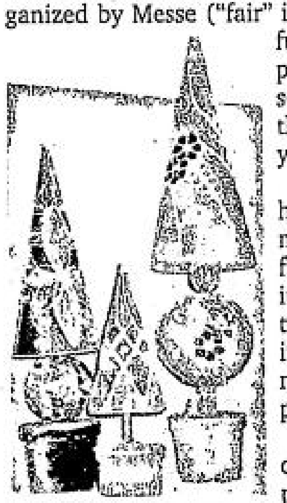
Despite the challenges they face, 24 Filipino exporters were in a holiday mood as they recently showed their innovative products consisting mainly of Christmas décor.

Billed as Christmasworld, the international trade fair in Frankfurt, Germany, ran from Jan. 25 to 29 at the Frankfurt Fair Grounds.

No less than 1,043 exhibitors from 37 countries participated in the annual event organized by Messe ("fair" in German) Frankfurt, a private company that holds a series of trade fairs throughout the year.

Close to 300 exhibitors at Christmasworld came from China, making it the biggest country next to Germany in terms of the number of participants.

Christmasworld coincided with Paperworld and Beautyworld, two other trade fairs with a considerable Chinese and Taiwanese presence.



MINI Christmas trees made of velvet, beads and chord by Buena Mano Crafts Inc.

The European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines (ECCP) has traditionally been the prime mover in selecting and representing most of the Filipino exporters in Christmasworld and other events organized by Messe Frankfurt.

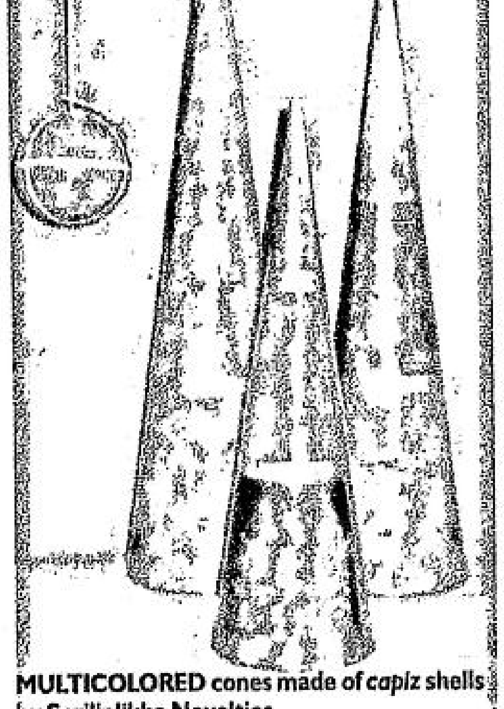
"We evaluate the companies based on the quality of their products, their ability to deliver and their track record," said Wilbert Novero, ECCP manager for international fairs.

Aside from providing a link between exhibitor and fair organizer, ECCP also assists in booth design and hires the Frankfurt-based contractor to execute it.

Unlike its counterparts from other countries, the Philippine contingent did away with the typical pre-fabricated booths made of

PINOY/F2

CHRISTMAS trees made of an unusual combination of colors and sheer materials by Kalikasan Crafts



MULTICOLORED cones made of *capiz* shells by Sarilinlikha Novelties

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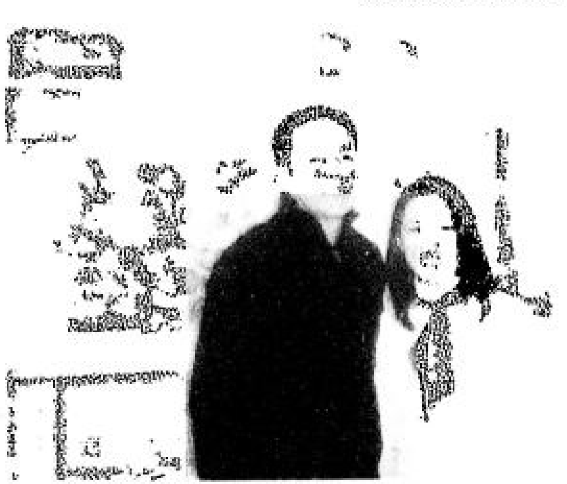
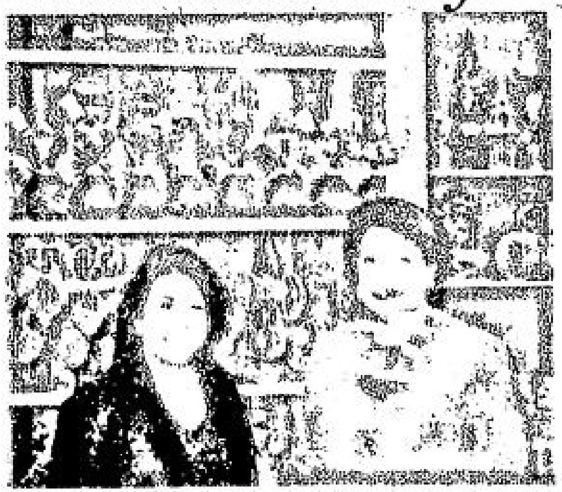

JERRY and Celia Jiao of Kalikasan Crafts


GINA Fernandez and Marlane Villa-real of Buena Mano Crafts Inc.

ROWENA Sambrano of Accent Pieces attends to a pair of foreign buyers.

WILBERT Novero of ECCP and Marjo Evio of Citem

Pinoy holiday zest in cold Frankfurt

Against all odds, Filipino designers and exporters make their presence felt in the increasingly competitive European market

From page F1

metal and white wooden boards. It opted for sleek, uniform wooden booths with built-in shelves painted either in off-white or moss green.

The Philippine section further stood out with the word "Pilipinas" splashed in big, bold letters on several strategically placed columns and walls.

"Because of our unique booth design," said Novero, "we always manage to get a good location from Messe Frankfurt."

First time

For the first time in years, the Center for International Trade Expositions and Missions (Citem), an agency of the Department of Trade and Industry that promotes the country's exports, subsidized some of the expenses of 10 exporters whose booths are painted in moss green.

"The companies we chose offer a diverse mix of products," said Marjo Evio of Citem. She declined to disclose the amount of assistance. We have it on good authority, however, that each exhibitor received a modest sum of P100,000.

"They needed our support since most of them are first-time exhibitors abroad," Evio said. Buyers are quite particular about the track record of companies they deal with. Unless they really like a particular collection, buyers usually treat first-time exhibitors with a wait-and-see attitude.

"They want to make sure that the company they deal with can deliver," said Evio. "One reassuring sign is if they see the company again in succeeding exhibitions."

Instead of focusing solely on Manila FAME, a biannual local trade fair every April and October, Citem has decided to become more active this year by joining hands with ECCP.

Such a move is simply a reflection of the times. Due to negative travel advisories issued by a number of foreign governments, not a few buyers have skipped Manila in favor of other regional trade shows.

Exporters are one in saying that negative reports of the country's peace and order are scaring away even the most loyal buyers from going to the Philippines.

Others were said to have tried to defy the travel advisory, but changed their minds in the end in the absence of an insurance coverage. A growing number of insurance companies abroad have become risk-averse when it comes to the Philippines.

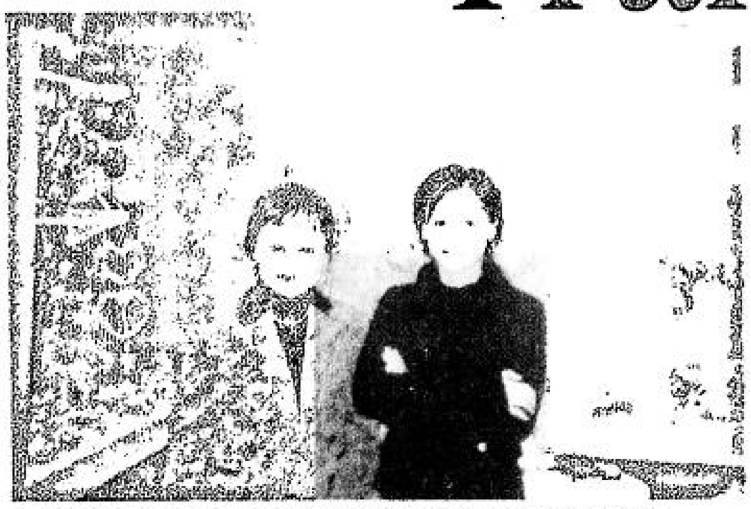
"Manila FAME has been a major source of sales," said Albert de Rivera, president of Alriver Export Corp. "For the past several years, however, attendance has dwindled because of such factors as competition and security concerns. We need to be more aggressive in showcasing our products abroad in order to reach out to more buyers and hopefully increase our sales."

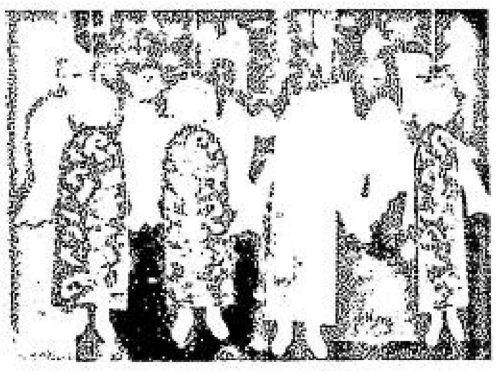
Glitter

Indeed, all that Yuletide glitter is gold. According to a fact sheet provided by Citem, total exports of holiday décor reached a cool $74.6 million in 2001. The United States remains the country's biggest export market, with sales amounting to $43.6 million, followed by Japan, Germany, Great Britain and France.

Alriver, one of the pioneers in the export business, started way back when the Philippines led the region in manufacturing handcrafted Christmas décor.

DR. Jun Balderrama of Sarilinlikha Novelties


PILAR and Petite Blanco of Philippine Concorde Trading Corp.


DANGLING angels by Sarilinlikha

LAMP accented with a pair of resin angels by Alriver Export Corp.

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Unparalleled Subscriber Base in Broad C and D Market
Proves its SMART for a Reason

Not one to rest on its laurels as the nation's 3rd largest GSM brand, SMART's Talk 'N Text is definitely on its way to marking another banner year in 2003. This winning formula cannot be better described than in its key pitch, " Yan ang galing without overspending". The tag line focuses on its commitment to remain the dominant brand of choice for the budget conscious market segment by continuously delivering simply the best value among all the pre-paid mobile products in the market. That strategy has paid off.

There is no better indication of this successful strategy than the phenomenal subscriber base of Talk N' Text - already 1.7 million users at the end of the 3rd Quarter of '02; twice the size of its nearest rival in the similar market segment at the same point in time. This number does not yet take into account the significant additions in the 4th quarter of the year. The increase has come mostly from the provincial areas where the brand has shown the winning combination of the right price with superior coverage. This meets the subscriber's top priority of keeping in touch with family, friends and their businesses even in inaccessible rural areas. TNT's clarity of signal and nationwide coverage are supported by the SMART network of 2800 cell sites.

Certainly, Talk 'N Text consistent focus on value for money has been the cornerstone in meeting its growth targets and consolidating its undisputed position not only as the true 3rd largest GSM brand in the market but as one of the most innovative. Priced attractively at P 6.50 rate per minute for voice calls and P 1.00 for text messaging, TNT maintains its two-pronged approach to remain completely affordable yet enabling its customers to enjoy the features of over 250 SMART Zed value-added services. In fact, access to popular features such as trendy logos, popular ring tones, horoscopes, and news are proving to be TNT's competitive edge against the rest of the market. Just recently, Talk 'N Text scored another coup with its launch of the POWER SIM. Providing a shot of adrenaline into the capabilities of the ordinary SIM card, users are now able to power up to an amazing 250 phone book entries and 40 SMS-memory, all at the affordable rate of P 170 or even for FREE when stepped up from previously issued SIMs. Another big hit for subscribers who still wanted to remain connected but are on a tighter budget is the Pure Text affordable pre-paid card. This pioneering product with a text-only feature is another first by SMART and the unbeatable P 100 pricing has found widespread appeal among its users and a permanent place in their wallets.

Leading TNT's charge to win the consumer hearts are the popular foursome of Marvin Agustin, Jerico Rosales, Dominic Ochoa and the beautiful Kristine Hermosa. Like Pied Pipers to their legion of fans, they have consistently created excitement to overwhelming crowds at each stop along their provincial campaign. They have proven themselves to be the perfect choice in creating awareness to the amazing benefits in joining the Talk 'N Text " barkada". This is coupled with an interactive feature that allow their many fans to send text messages directly to the amazing foursome. Merging entertainment with the need to keep in touch undoubtedly makes a convincing enough argument for many to hop on to the Talk N' Text bandwagon.

As a result, Talk 'N Text maintains its enviable position as one of the strongest brands to contend with in the local GSM market. Certainly, the customers have voted, and the result is in. Talk 'N Text definitely still holds on to the distinction of having the best value for money in the pre-paid mobile brands in the market today.

TALK 'N TEXT
Noche Buenas

Bili na
within 15 days
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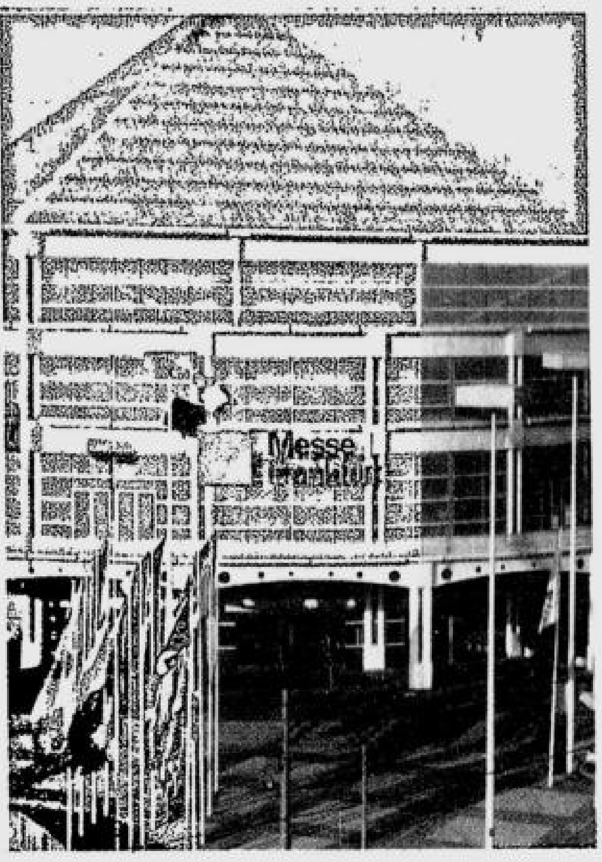
ALRIVER Export is situated at a strategic corner of the huge hall.



MESSE Frankfurt holds a series of fairs throughout the year.

Although nobody in Asia knows Christmas better than Filipinos, the country's market share has considerably decreased over the years as China flooded the world with its cheap mass-produced Christmas decor. But that's getting ahead of our story.

This year, Alriver chose to showcase its signature Nativity figures made of sculpted tin. To stay ahead of the competition, said Nanette de Rivera, Albert's wife and the company's designer, they design a different, if more complicated collection with each passing year.

"It's no joke to go into export," said Nanette. "We constantly think of new designs not only to stay ahead of the competition, but also to keep our buyers happy. We can't come here with the same designs since a number of our buyers also carry products they bought from us from previous shows."

Such occasions are also ideal opportunities for exporters to renew ties with buyers. The mother-and-daughter team of Perla and Petite Blanco of Philippine Concorde Trading Corp. was heartened to see old buyers who skipped Manila in favor of the Frankfurt fair.

"It was like a reunion," said Perla. "They were equally delighted to see us."

Not only did the German, Swiss and Italian buyers snap up the company's new product line consisting of intricate wire and tin pieces covered with glitters in every imaginable shade, they also promised to pay the Blancos a visit either before or after the April edition of Manila FAME.

"They want to be as inconspicuous as possible," said Petite. "They don't want to travel to Manila together with other big groups of foreigners. We'll be the ones to go to their hotels and show them our new products as soon as they arrive."

Reach out

Whether they like it or not, local exporters have to reach out to foreign buyers to ensure their survival. Such marketing expenses, of course, are factored in their overall costs, which in turn will ultimately jack up their products' prices.

Apart from providing an occasion to exhibit and market wares, the international events enable exporters to observe trends, form new ideas and find new sources of raw materials. On-the-spot bookings by the containers, of course, are most welcome. But the fair has a residual effect throughout the year as exporters continue to receive orders.

The fairs also allow exporters to modify or fine-tune their products according to buyers' specifications. Marlane Villa-real and Gina Fernandez of Buena Mano Crafts Inc., for instance, are seriously considering a Swedish company's proposal.

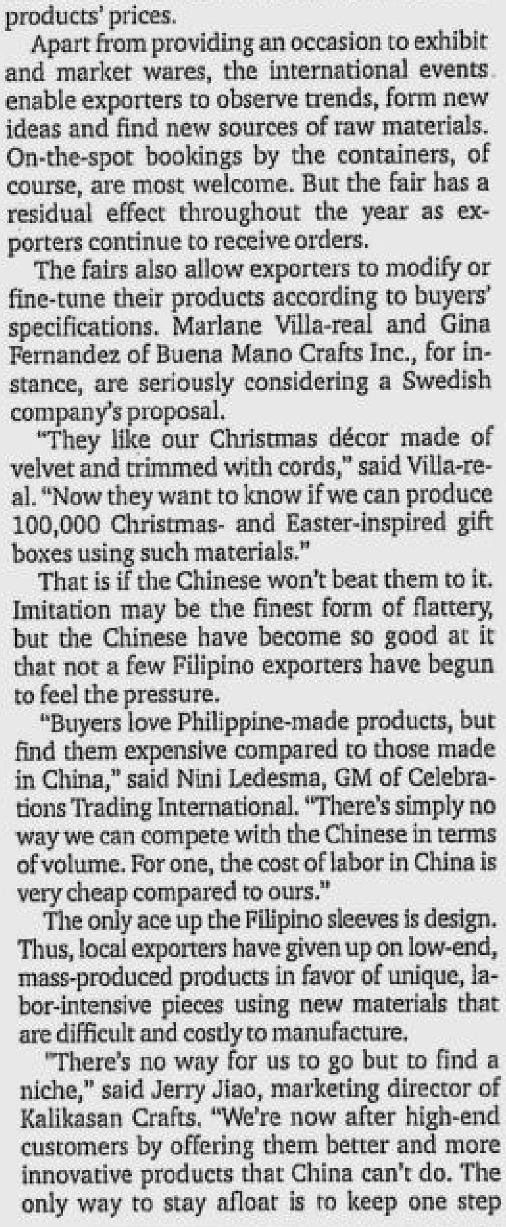
"They like our Christmas décor made of velvet and trimmed with cords," said Villa-real. "Now they want to know if we can produce 100,000 Christmas- and Easter-inspired gift boxes using such materials."

That is if the Chinese won't beat them to it. Imitation may be the finest form of flattery, but the Chinese have become so good at it that not a few Filipino exporters have begun to feel the pressure.

"Buyers love Philippine-made products, but find them expensive compared to those made in China," said Nini Ledesma, GM of Celebrations Trading International. "There's simply no way we can compete with the Chinese in terms of volume. For one, the cost of labor in China is very cheap compared to ours."

The only ace up the Filipino sleeves is design. Thus, local exporters have given up on low-end, mass-produced products in favor of unique, labor-intensive pieces using new materials that are difficult and costly to manufacture.

"There's no way for us to go but to find a niche," said Jerry Jiao, marketing director of Kalikasan Crafts. "We're now after high-end customers by offering them better and more innovative products that China can't do. The only way to stay afloat is to keep one step ahead of the game."



MINI Christmas trees fashioned from coconut fibers by Celebrations Trading International

Chinese companies have long admired and followed the Filipino exporters' lead. They've acknowledged the importance of updating their designs by luring the best Filipino designers with outrageously high salaries and perks. A Filipino working for a Chinese company based in Xiamen admitted as much.

"We have marching orders to observe and draw inspiration from new items produced in the Philippines," he said. "Of course, we won't sell our country down the drain by coming up with exact replicas. And you can only teach Chinese designers so much. Due to their culture, their imagination is quite limited when it comes to designing Christmas items."

The Chinese may have the numbers, but they don't have the heart and soul for Christmas like Filipinos do.

E-mail the author at avergara@inquirer.com.ph

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SHARING MOMENTS, SHARING LIFE AT THE 4TH WORLD MEETING OF FAMILIES

WHENEVER THERE IS A MEMORY WORTH KEEPING, KODAK IS THERE TO CAPTURE IT. THROUGHOUT THE YEARS, KODAK HAS WITNESSED THE JOYS, LAUGHTER, TEARS AND PAIN WHICH MARK THE LIVES OF FILIPINO FAMILIES --- BE IT ON BIRTHDAYS, REUNIONS, GATHERINGS, WEDDINGS, ANNIVERSARIES AND OTHER IMPORTANT MILESTONES.

THIS YEAR, FILIPINOS EARNED THE HONOR TO HOST THE 4TH WORLD MEETING OF FAMILIES HERE IN MANILA. THIS WAS A PERFECT TIME FOR FILIPINO FAMILIES AS WELL AS FAMILIES FROM OTHER NATIONS TO COME TOGETHER AND CELEBRATE THE TRIUMPH OF FAMILY LOVE, TOGETHERNESS AND UNDERSTANDING AMIDST ALL THE CHALLENGES THAT THE CHRISTIAN FAMILY FACES IN THIS MILLENNIUM.

MORE THAN JUST CAPTURING PRECIOUS UNFORGETTABLE FAMILY MOMENTS DURING THE EVENT THROUGH PICTURES, KODAK STRONGLY BELIEVES IN THE AGENDA OF THE 4TH WORLD MEETING OF FAMILIES --- TO ADDRESS THE ISSUES CONFRONTING FAMILIES ESPECIALLY THE FILIPINO FAMILY AT PRESENT AND STRENGTHEN THE LOVE, UNITY AND UNDERSTANDING AMONGST FAMILY MEMBERS.

IT IS FOR THIS REASON THAT KODAK PROUDLY SPONSORED THE 4TH WORLD MEETING OF FAMILIES. AFTER ALL, IF NOT FOR THE GOOD AND LASTING MOMENTS THAT FAMILIES CONTINUE TO SHARE WITH ONE ANOTHER OVER THE YEARS, KODAK WOULD NOT HAVE THOSE "SHARING MOMENTS WITH THE FAMILY" PICTURES TO SPEAK OF.

Share moments with the family.
Kodak

HAPPENING SIMULTANEOUSLY WAS A LESS SERIOUS BUT SIMILARLY RELEVANT GATHERING --- THE SONS AND DAUGHTERS CONGRESS. HERE THE YOUNG DELEGATES INTERACTED WITH ONE ANOTHER AND CELEBRATED THEIR LOVE FOR GOD THROUGH SONGS, DANCES AND MANY CULTURAL PRESENTATIONS. THE ACTIVITY WAS AWASH WITH COLORS AS THE SONS AND DAUGHTERS WORE BRIGHT OUTFITS AND COLORED BANDANAS OVER THEIR HEADS TO IDENTIFY WHICH GROUP THEY BELONGED TO. TO HELP CAPTURE THIS LIVELY OCCASION, KODAK DEMONSTRATED PHOTO-TAKING TIPS TO THE DELEGATES. SOME LUCKY TEENAGERS WERE ABLE TO PRACTICE THE TIPS IMMEDIATELY AS KODAK GAVE OUT 30 KB10 CAMERAS TO THEM.

4th World Meeting of Families

January 22-26, 2003
Manila, Philippines

THERE WAS ALSO A DAY OF PILGRIMAGE AS THE DELEGATES TROOPED TO 14 CHURCHES ALL OVER METRO MANILA TO CELEBRATE MASS. AGE-OLD CHURCHES WERE FESTIVELY DECORATED AND THE LOCAL PARISHIONERS AND PRIESTS WELCOMED THE DELEGATES WITH DANCE AND FUN TO MAKE THEM FEEL AT HOME. WHAT FOLLOWED THAT EVENING WAS A VIGIL AT THE QUIRINO GRANDSTAND IN LUNETA. DELEGATES SHARED THEIR HEARTWARMING STORIES WHILE POPE JOHN PAUL II LISTENED TO THEM VIA SATELLITE. THEY ALL LOOKED FORWARD TO A RENEWED FAMILY LIFE AS THEY LEFT FOR THEIR RESPECTIVE HOMES.

THE 4TH WORLD MEETING OF FAMILIES CAME TO A CLOSE WITH A SPECIAL MASS AT THE QUIRINO GRANDSTAND WHERE ALL FAMILIES CAME TOGETHER TO BECOME ONE BIG FAMILY DEDICATED TO SERVING GOD. THROUGHOUT THE 4TH WORLD MEETING OF FAMILIES, THE DELEGATES WERE ABLE TO STRENGTHEN THEIR FAITH AND LOVE THAT THEY SHARE WITH THEIR OWN FAMILIES.

THE HISTORIC FIVE DAYS OF THE 4TH WORLD MEETING OF FAMILIES HERE IN THE PHILIPPINES WILL CLEARLY LEAVE A POSITIVE IMPRINT ON THE FAMILY DELEGATES WHO ATTENDED AND EVEN THE FAMILIES WHO WITNESSED THE EVENT IN THEIR RESPECTIVE HOMES. AND THROUGH THE PICTURES THAT KODAK HELPED CAPTURE, THE FAMILIES CAN RELIVE THEIR MEMORIES FOREVER.

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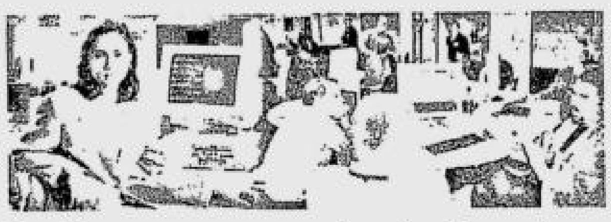

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male, graduate of Business Administration, Mechanical or Electrical Engineering; with at least two (2) years work experience in property management and building administration in the same capacity; able to lead group and prioritize work load to meet deadlines

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with at least one (1) year experience in retail operations, food chain or in sales; personable and can handle customer concerns and complaints effectively

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female, graduate of any 4-year business course; with pleasing personality and can handle customer concerns and complaints effectively; with at least one (1) to two (2) years experience in customer service

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female, graduate of Architecture, preferably licensed; knowledgeable in AUTOCADD application

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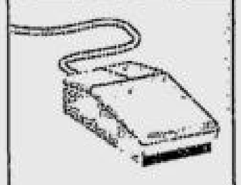

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- ☑ Male, not over 23 years old
- ☑ Excellent communication and interpersonal skills
- ☑ Computer literate (MS Applications)

CASHIERS

- ☑ BS Accountancy graduate
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- ☑ Good communication skills
- ☑ Computer literate (MS Applications)

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- ☑ College graduate, preferably business course
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- ☑ Good communication skills
- ☑ Computer literate (MS Applications)

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- ☑ Computer literate (MS Applications)

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Interested applicants must submit or mail their Comprehensive Resume, Transcript of Records and most recent 2x2 picture to: **UCPB GEN – Human Resources & Administrative Services Department,** 24th Floor LKG Tower, Ayala Avenue, Makati City Or e-mail to personnel@ucpbgen.com - strictly no attachment; you may also visit our website at www.ucpbgen.com for more information about our Company.

We guarantee 15 months compensation and a competitive benefits package that includes rice subsidy; housing, car and other financial loans at low interest rates; medical, insurance and retirement plans; and special performance incentives.

Previous applicants need not apply

FOR THE RGMC GROUP'S EXPANSION PROGRAM, WE ARE IMMEDIATELY HIRING MOTIVATED PROFESSIONALS FOR THE POSITION OF:

FOOD DIVISION

1) **Brand and Marketing assistant for food products**
   a. With at least 2 years marketing background and experience for consumer food products. Graduate of a 4 year Business or Management course.
   b. Good with client relations and proficient in oral and written communication.
   c. 25-32 years old
2) **Sales Representative for Food products**
   a. With at least 2 years field experience and with at least 2nd year college level.
   b. With pleasing personality and good communication skills
   c. Honest, hardworking, energetic and with initiative, ability and interest in selling products. Willing to work past regular hours
   d. 25-32 years old at least 5'2" for females and 5'4" for males
3) **Delivery van driver – can drive up to 6 wheeler trucks**
   a. Hardworking, honest and willing to work overtime
   b. Not more than 35 years old

FASHION DIVISION

4) **Operations Assistant for Retail store operations**
   a. Good with customer relations and possesses good oral and written communication skills. Logical and is an effective leader.
   b. With at least 2 years experience as assistant manager or supervisor
   c. Female, 24-30 years old, graduate of a 4year Business or Management course
5) **HR Manager**
   a. With at least 2 years experience as an HR assistant or supervisor.
   b. Graduate of a 4year Management or Psychology related course
   c. Hire, Train and Monitoring of promo personnel as well as administrative personnel. Can design, develop and conduct training programs.
   d. Female, 25-32 years old
6) **Sales Coordinator**
   a. Graduate of a 4year course. Preferably management related course
   b. Female, Not more than 30 years old
7) **Store Manager/Management Trainee**
   a. Female, 26-30 years old at least 5'4" Pleasing personality and good with client relations and oral communication skills both in English and Tagalog and is an effective leader.
   b. Willing to be assigned anywhere in Metro Manila
   c. Honest, hardworking and energetic. Must have ability and initiative to manage a retail store.
   d. With experience at a sales or management position and graduate of a 4year Business or Management course
8) **Sales Personnel**
   a. Female, 21-28 years old, at least 5'4". At least 2nd year college.
   b. Pleasing personality and good with client relations and oral communication skills both in English and Tagalog.
   c. Willing to be assigned anywhere in Metro Manila
   d. Honest, hardworking, energetic and with initiative, ability and interest in selling products.
9) **Visual Merchandiser and 10) Fashion Designer**
   a. Female, 24-30 years old
   b. Preferably a graduate of Fine Arts or fashion related course.
   c. With creative skills in drawing, sketching and product arranging.

REQUIREMENTS: RECENT 2X2 ID PICTURE AND RESUMÉ
PLS CONTACT MS. MILDRED
RGMC GROUP
TEL NO. 7425795, 7325603
E-MAIL: RGMC@PACIFIC.NET.PH

URGENTLY NEEDED

Isis International – Manila, an international women's information and communication service organisation is currently in search of FEMALE applicants who will join its dynamic and motivated team belonging to the Information, Documentation and Resources Programme (IDRP) for the following position:

DATABASE SPECIALIST

(for a limited 1-year contract)

Primary Functions:

- development, maintenance and expansion of Isis initiated databases including key networks.
- Participation in Information Technology Team work.

Essential Skills:

- Advanced computer literacy; technical know-how in use of internet, Microsoft Access; able to use complex computer operations (relations database & operating systems, advanced features software packages (work processing, spreadsheet, graphics)
- Well versed in designing forms & questionnaires necessary to conduct surveys and writing business letters
- Experienced in handling and managing information gathering, sharing, organising and profiling
- Good networking experience
- Must be familiar with research techniques
- Ability to follow up and retain initial contacts made with individuals, groups and institutions
- Excellent writing and verbal communication skills in English

The successful candidate will show that she:
- Has initiative and a high degree of commitment
- Is well organised, flexible, a "doer" and team oriented
- Has at least 3-4 years working experience.

Send resumés with 2 reference letters not later than Monday, February 17, 2003 to:

THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
#3 Marunong Street, Brgy. Central
Quezon City 1100 Philippines
Fax (632) 924-1065 Reference: Database Officer

A LEADING LAW FIRM URGENTLY REQUIRES FOR THE POSITION OF:

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE STAFF

- male or female
- graduate of BS Accountancy
- minimum of 2 years relevant experience
- at least 27 years of age
- computer literate and familiar with Microsoft Office applications
- with excellent oral and written communication skills

Qualified applicants may submit their resumé, 2x2 picture, and other credentials to:

THE OFFICE MANAGER
12th Floor Net One Center
26th Street Corner 3rd Avenue, Crescent Park West
Bonifacio Global City, Taguig, Metro Manila

A LEADING LAW FIRM INVITES APPLICANTS FOR THE POSITION OF:

LEGAL SECRETARY

- **Female, not more than 30 years of age**
- **Computer literate, with excellent typing speed**
- **Disciplined, responsible, hardworking, systematic, and organized**
- **With good written and oral communication skills**
- **Preferably with related experience**

Qualified applicants may submit their resumé, 2x2 picture, and other credentials to:

THE OFFICE MANAGER
12th Floor, Net One Center
26th Street corner 3rd Avenue, Crescent Park West
Bonifacio Global City, Taguig, Metro Manila

RobinsonsBank

A Savings Bank

*Belonging to a highly diversified **JG Summit Holdings Group, ROBINSONS SAVINGS BANK** is in urgent need of young professionals to fit the following key positions:*

BRANCH MANAGERS

(For Metro Manila, Iloilo & Bacolod)

- Male or Female
- Between 25 - 36 years old
- Graduate of any Business related course
- With at least 2 yrs. Marketing experience and sufficient knowledge of branch operations
- With good oral and written communication skills
- Preferably Chinese speaking

LOANS OFFICER / PROCESSOR

(For Tanjay, Negros Oriental)

- Preferably Male
- Between 24 - 30 years old
- Graduate of any Business related course
- Preferably with Account Management, Quedan Financing / Agri-loans background
- Knowledgeable with sugar industry
- Computer literate

SALES OFFICERS – AUTO & LIABILITIES

(For Cebu)

- Male or Female
- Between 22 - 27 years old
- Graduate of any Business related course
- Should have strong marketing background preferably in Banking or related fields
- Familiar with solicitation of deposit accounts
- With good oral & written communication skills
- Pleasing personality

CUSTOMER SALES ASSISTANT / TELLER

(For Metro Manila & Dagupan)

- Male or Female
- Between 21 - 25 years old
- Graduate of any Business related course
- Experience in tellering / new accounts is an advantage
- Computer literate
- With good oral & written communication skills
- Pleasing personality

STORECARD CUSTOMER CARE & COLLECTION ASSISTANTS

- Male or Female
- Between 20 - 25 years old
- Graduate of any Business related course
- With good oral & written communication skills

CLEARING ASSISTANT

- Male or Female
- Between 20 - 25 years old
- Graduate of any Business related course
- With good oral & written communication skills
- Willing to be assigned in night shift

SALES & SERVICE OFFICERS

- Male or Female
- Between 24 - 28 years old
- Graduate of any Business related course
- CPA an advantage
- 3 to 5 years experience in new accounts, tellering, bookkeeping and supervision

MARKETING ASSISTANT / OFFICER

- Male or Female
- Between 22 - 27 years old
- Graduate of any Business related course
- Should have strong marketing background preferably in Banking or related fields
- Familiar with solicitation of deposit accounts
- With good oral & written communication skills
- Pleasing personality

ACCOUNT OFFICERS

- Male or Female
- Between 25 - 35 years old
- Graduate of any Business related course
- With at least 2 yrs. experience as Account Officer for Consumer Loans
- Familiar with solicitation of deposit accounts
- Excellent oral & written communication skills
- Pleasing personality

HUMAN RESOURCE SPECIALIST

- Male or Female
- Between 24 - 32 years old
- Graduate of Psychology, Behavioral Science or any related course
- With strong background in Training and Development
- With exposure in Job Evaluation, Personnel Policy Development and other critical HR functions
- With good oral & written communication skills

TECHNICAL / OPERATIONS SPECIALIST

- Male
- Between 20 - 30 years old
- Graduate of Computer Science / Computer Engineering / ECE or related courses
- With at least 3-5 yrs. experience in Windows NT Administration, Router Configuration & other technical support functions
- Willing to be assigned in night shift

ROVING TELLER

- Male
- Between 20 - 25 years old
- Graduate of any Business related course
- With good oral and written communication skills

Interested applicants may submit their Letter of Application, Resumé, & Transcript of Records to:

ROBINSONS SAVINGS BANK
Human Resources Management Group
Units 101 & 201 Continental Court Condo., 47 Annapolis St., Greenhills, San Juan, MM
Fax No. (632) 721-2336 • E-mail: recruitment@robinsonsbank.com.ph
**Only qualified applicants will be notified.*

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infocom

THE INTERNET COMPANY OF PLDT

Infocom Technologies, Inc. is in need of highly qualified individuals to fill the following positions:

Product Manager for Content & Applications

The successful candidate will be tasked to formulate and implement Marketing Plans based on identified opportunities and critical issues of the product/category. He/she shall established partnerships and manage the content of all company-owned portals, and handle the implementation of the product/category.

- College graduate with a degree in Business, Management, Commerce;
- With at least three years work experience in Product Management;
- Experience in Brand Management, specially gained from a fast-moving consumer company is an advantage;
- Must be creative, articulate, strategic, analytical, organized, and results-oriented, with a proven track record in developing and implementing Marketing Plans;
- Has excellent interpersonal relations skills;
- Working knowledge on Financials (P&L) and exposure in advertising and market research are advantages.

Product Manager for Corporate Business

The successful candidate will be tasked to formulate strategies for the Infocom's corporate business in the attainment of revenue and subscriber targets. He/she shall evaluate the market scenario and its impact on the business to aid in his/her development and implementation of plans and projects based on identified positioning and issues of the brand.

- College graduate in Business, Management, Commerce;
- With at least three years work experience in Corporate Marketing, preferably in a TelCo or ISP/Internet-related setting;
- Must be creative, articulate, strategic, analytical, organized, and results-oriented, with a proven track record in initiating and implementing programs for corporate clients;
- Has excellent interpersonal skills;
- Working knowledge on Financials (P&L) and exposure in advertising and market research are advantages.

Corporate Sales Manager

The successful candidate will be tasked to lead and manage the Corporate Sales unit, and shall be responsible for the skills training and development of his/her team members. He/she shall ensure achievement of the unit's group sales targets, and shall be accountable for its revenue, profit, and cost management.

- College graduate in Business, Management, Commerce; Masteral units an advantage
- With at least five (5) years relevant work experience in Sales, and at least three (3) years in a supervisory capacity;
- Must be assertive, strategic, analytical, and results-driven;
- Experience in a corporate, IT, or internet-related setting is preferred.

Account Manager for Corporate Business

The successful candidate shall be tasked with the general functions of Revenue, Profit, and Cost Management; Account and Service Management; and Sales and Marketing Strategies Implementation.

- College graduate in Business, Management, Commerce;
- With at least two (2) years relevant work experience in Sales and Account Management for corporate clients, preferably from the same or similar industry;
- With above average oral and written communication skills; and
- Possesses excellent interpersonal relations skills.

Sales Admin Staff

The successful candidate shall be tasked with, among others, taking incoming phone calls from corporate clients with inquiries and requests for services. He/she will coordinate any sales requirements with the corresponding point persons.

- College graduate of any four-year course;
- With at least two (2) years working experience in data management and/or customer service;
- With very good oral and written communication skills.

Interested applicants may send their resumé through e-mail jobs@info.com.ph indicating their position of interest on the subject line.

Applications for positions other than advertised will not be entertained.
Only applicants who meet the minimum qualifications will be considered and called upon.

A FAST GROWING FOOD OPERATIONS COMPANY IN CALIFORNIA, USA, IS LOOKING FOR A GREAT PEOPLE ORIENTED, CUSTOMER FOCUSED AND DETAILED QUALITY CONSCIOUS MANAGER FOR ASSIGNMENT TO ITS SAN FRANCISCO OPERATIONS.

THE REQUIREMENT:

Business Development/Operations Manager

THE JOB:

Reporting directly to the Vice President of Operations, this position shall be responsible for growing the business and improving profitability in the Northern California Area.

Among the key responsibilities will be to develop marketing and expansion plans, identify business opportunities, identify sites for new stores, manage current store operations, and manage the logistics of product handling and distribution.

THE COMPETENCIES:

- Local Store Marketing
- Institutional Selling
- Store Expansion Planning
- Customer Service Management
- Feasibility Study
- Market Research and Intelligence
- Strong Leadership and Management Skills with Entrepreneurial Spirit
- In-Depth Finance Management Knowledge
- High Interpersonal Skills
- Excellent Oral and Written English communication skills

THE SPECIFICATIONS:

- Has gained over 8 years work experience in a managerial capacity with strong marketing/sales background obtained from a food, hotel/restaurant, dairy, bakery industries
- College Graduate in Business Administration or other related courses. Post graduate education is an advantage
- With Computer Literacy

Interested parties may submit their written application with comprehensive resumé and latest 2x2 picture at the:

Human Resources and Admin Group
QC 2003 – 01
c/o Philippine Daily Inquirer
G/F St. Anthony's Building
891 Aurora Blvd. cor Oxford St.
Cubao, Quezon City

Strengthening the Foundations of Lasting Peace and Development in Southern Philippines - PHI/01/001

AREA Coordinator for ARMM

The Government of the Philippines -United Nations Multi-Donor Program (GoP-UN/MDP3), a peace and development programme in Southern Philippines is in search of a qualified individual to fill up the post of AREA COORDINATOR for the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM):

Terms of Reference

She/He reports directly to the Programme Coordinator

Job Description:

- Work closely with the Component Managers, assist in the integration and convergence of the different components at the target community level, and, extend support to government programs being implemented in the target communities
- Work in close coordination with ARMM
- Provide recommendations on the schedule/sequence of the implementation of components
- Initiate conduct of baseline data generation/profiling of target communities
- Build partnerships at the target communities to facilitate implementation of different components
- Ensure consolidation of inter-component work and financial plans and progress reports
- Conduct monitoring and evaluation activities
- Facilitate administrative requirements of different components
- Recommends policy and strategic options thru the Programme Support and Coordination Team (PSCT)
- Based on the prescribed systems for monitoring and evaluation, financial management, and logistics, submit required plans and progress reports
- Supervise the operations of the Area Coordination Team - ARMM

B. Qualifications

- Masteral/Masteral units/Bachelor's degree in Management / Public Administration, Development Management / Public Administration / Development Management / Economics / Rural Development
- At least 10 years experience in Southern Philippines/Mindanao on the following: management and supervisor of projects, networking with LGUs, NGOs, and other partners at the community level
- Very satisfactory level of facilitation and coordination skills, extensive experience in capacity building programme development, management and implementation, have background on governance, partnership and institution building, gender and culture-sensitive and project conceptualization, proposal making and financial analyses
- Able to converse in most of the dialects in Southern Philippines most particularly Tausog, Maguindanao or Maranao
- Familiar with the culture, history and current situation in Southern Philippines

Preferably all applicants should come from Mindanao. Please submit your application letter and comprehensive resume on or before 7 February 2003 to Development Support Services Center, United Nations Development Programme, 7th Floor NEDA sa Makati Building, 106 Amorsolo St., Legaspi Village, Makati City (via courier) or P.O. Box 7285 Domestic Airport Post Office Lock Box, 1300 Domestic Road, Pasay City (via airmail) Tel. Nos. (632) 8932609/892-0611 to 25, Fax Nos. (632) 816-4061/893-9598 Email Address: bc_admin.ph@undp.org

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Roche

Pharmaceuticals

Secretary

Application Code: SEC

Who we are

Founded in 1896 in Basel, Switzerland, Roche has grown from a small drug laboratory into one of the world's leading research-based healthcare companies. The company is known for many innovative contributions to medicine and healthcare. We have been operating successfully in the Philippines for over 38 years.

The Position

The main function of this job calls for providing efficient and effective secretarial and administrative support to the business unit head.

Who you are

To qualify, you must be a college graduate with at least 2 years secretarial experience. You must be proficient in MS Office programs, possess above average oral and written English communication skills, and outstanding interpersonal skills to deal with all levels of employees. Ideal candidates must be systematic and highly organized, with a keen eye for details, and can work with minimum supervision. Female, preferably single.

Who to Contact

Submit your resumé with recent passport size picture and contact telephone number no later than ***Friday, 7 February 2003*** to:

The Human Resources Department - Application Code SEC
Roche (Philippines) Inc.
2252 Don Chino Roces Avenue, 1231 Makati City

Only qualified candidates will be called for interview.
Previous applicants need not apply.

HIMLAYANG PILIPINO PLANS, INCORPORATED

has immediate need for:

CLAIMS MANAGER

- Graduate of at least a 4-year College Course
- With relevant supervisory or managerial experience preferably either in a Pre-Need or Insurance Company
- Has the facility of oral and written communications
- Adepth in customer relations, and proficient in dealing and interacting with people in all situations
- With legal background in claims
- Between 35-47 years old

JR. AUDITOR

- Male, between 22-25 years old
- Preferably single
- BSBA major in Accounting graduate
- Computer literate
- With at least one year experience in accounting work

Come visit us personally or send resumé, transcript and 2x2 ID photo to:

The Personnel Department
6th Floor, Triumph Building
1610 Quezon Avenue, Quezon City
Tel. No. 927-9671 to 75 • 920-2876 • 929-6611/12 • Fax (926-7328)

DIRECT HIRING
OFFICE PERSONNEL
FOR BRANCH EXPANSION

Qualifications:
- Male/Female, 18-40 years old; w/ or w/o exp.
- Coll. Grad/Lev any couse
- WILLING 2B TRAINED

Contact MS. CHUA
Tel. # 0919 2226122/373-5658

Apply in person at:
2nd Flr. Rm 4 Muñoz Plaza Bldg.
Roosevelt Ave. cor EDSA, Q.C.

"Clip this Ad in Resumé"

Send your resumé instantly.

JOBMarket ONLINE
www.jobmarketonline.com

FEP PRINTING CORPORATION

(Official printer of the Philippine Daily Inquirer, Libre, Asian Wall Street Journal, Cebu Daily News, Bandera, Tumbok)

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

STATISTICAL ANALYST

(code: SA)
- Graduate of Engineering Courses: BS Chemistry or BS Statistics
- Knowledgeable of SPC and other statistical techniques
- Minimum of 3 years experience in industrial/manufacturing operation

PROCESS SUPERVISOR

(code: PS)
- Graduate of Mechanical/Chemical Engineering, BS. Chemistry and other related courses
- With good leadership potential
- Has the ability to analyze problems and generate results
- With good oral and written communication skills

QUALITY ASSURANCE INSPECTOR

(code: QAI)
- Technical graduate
- Goal oriented, self motivated, team player
- Willing to undergo extensive training
- Can work under minimum supervision

ADVERTISING SALES MANAGER

(code: ASM)
- College graduate of any related course
- Has a good track record in sales
- Proficient in oral and written in English
- Team builder, Aggressive, Creative
- Various contacts in ad agency and direct advertisers A Plus

MECHANICAL TECHNICIAN

(code: MT)
- Mechanical Engineer
- Goal oriented, self motivated and team player
- Can work under minimum supervision
- Can work on shifts
- Willing to undergo extensive training

ELECTRICAL TECHNICIAN

(code: ET)
- ECE or EE graduate
- Familiar with AC and DC drives
- PLC literate
- Goal oriented, self motivated and team player
- Can work under minimum supervision
- Can work on shifts
- Willing to undergo extensive training

PROJECTS AND PLANNING MANAGER

(code: PPM)
- Graduate of Industrial Engineer preferably with MBA degree
- With at least 5 years experience as an Industrial Engineer in production
- Computer literate
- With excellent communication skills

PRODUCTION MANAGER

(code: PM)
- Mechanical/Industrial and Electrical Engineer preferably with MBA degree
- With at least 5 years experience
- Computer literate

ACCOUNTING ANALYST

(code: AA)
- Graduate of Accountancy
- Computer literate
- Preferably with related work experience
- With excellent communication & leadership skill
- Hardworking & self-motivated

Qualified applicants are requested to submit comprehensive resumé, recent 2x2 picture and a photocopy of Transcript of Records to:

HRD (code________)

For: MAKATI & MAMPLASAN
FEP Printing Corporation
Louie R. Prieto Press Building
Mascardo Street
near corner Pasong Tamo,
Makati City
Or e-mail to: arayqon@fep.ph

For: CEBU
FEP Printing Corporation
Warehouse I, Menzi Compound,
National Highway,
Pajo, Lapu-lapu City
Or e-mail to: erosales@fep.ph

For: DAVAO
FEP Printing Corporation
Brgy. MA-A, MA-A Road,
Davao City
Or e-mail to: erosales@fep.ph

A TOP 1000 FIRM INVITES APPLICANTS FOR THE POSITION OF

COMMUNICATION MANAGER FOR VISAYAS/MINDANAO

The successful candidate who will be based in Cebu shall be primarily responsible for:

- Developing corporate communication strategies.
- Implementing communication plans and programs.

Applicants must be willing to travel in Vis-Min and have the following qualifications:

- Male or female, between 25-45 years old
- Five to seven years experience in corporate communication, public relations and media
- Extensive network of contacts in government, media, trade and industry, NGOs in Visayas and Mindanao
- Excellent oral and written communication skills

Qualified candidates are advised to send their letters of application and resumés along with a recent passport photo to CM4VM, P.O. Box 271 Manila on or before February 17, 2003.

BMP MAGAZINES

One of the leading retailers of magazines, comics and periodicals with over 40 stores nationwide urgently needs

BAPTIST CHRISTIANS STORE AUDITORS

- ✓ Female, single, 23-30 years old, matured in faith
- ✓ Accounting, Business Management or Marketing Graduate
- ✓ With experience in sales and managing people
- ✓ Presentable with pleasing personality
- ✓ Willing to work in shifts, Mondays-to-Saturdays
- ✓ To be assigned in Manila, Makati, Cebu, Iloilo, Davao, Baguio, Pampanga and other key cities nationwide
- ✓ For possible foreign assignment in three years time (HK, Singapore, USA, Dubai)

Note: Applicants must bring or send complete requirements to 142 S.Guzman corner G. Reyes, Brgy. Salapan, San Juan, Metro Manila.

SAN LORENZO SCHOOL

is in need of
ELEMENTARY and HIGH SCHOOL TEACHERS
For the following subjects:

MATHEMATICS
ENGLISH
HELE
A.P.
FILIPINO
PEHM
THE
SCIENCE

Apply in person with comprehensive resumé and transcript of records:

SLS Guidance Office from M-F, 8:00-5:00
Mayumi Street, United San Pedro Subdivision,
San Pedro 4023, Laguna, Philippines
Telefax: 869-10-69 / 869-46-94
Or e-mail us at san-lorenzo@axti.com

A FAST GROWING FOOD OPERATIONS COMPANY IN CALIFORNIA, USA, IS LOOKING FOR A TALENTED AND HARD WORKING INDIVIDUAL TO BE ASSIGNED IN ITS HEAD OFFICE FACILITY IN LOS ANGELES.

THE REQUIREMENT:

Research & Development Manager

THE JOB:

Reporting to the Chief Operating Officer, this position shall be responsible for product development and packaging of new products. The job will also include product enhancement, process improvement and possible raw material substitutions as well as all technical aspects to improve margins and extend product shelf life.

THE COMPETENCIES:

- Expertise in Baking/Culinary/Dairy Science
- Product and Process Mastery
- Food Chemistry
- Packaging Technology
- Knowledge in Sensory Evaluation and Preparation of Experimental Design
- Product Costing
- Strong Leadership Qualities
- Strong Business Perspective

THE SPECIFICATIONS:

- A diploma in BS Food Technology, Chemistry, Chemical Engineering or other related courses. A post graduate education or attended courses in specialized field related to his/her profession is an advantage
- Has gained over 10 years work experience in R&D in the same capacity in a culinary, dairy or bakery companies
- Knowledgeable on Good Manufacturing Practices and Hazard Analysis Critical Control Points
- With Computer Literacy

Interested parties may submit their written application with comprehensive resumé and latest 2x2 picture at the:

Human Resources and Admin Group
QC 2003-02
c/o Philippine Daily Inquirer
G/F St. Anthony's Building
891 Aurora Blvd. cor. Oxford St.
Cubao, Quezon City

MSA ACADEMIC ADVANCEMENT INSTITUTE

is in need of

Highly Qualified Teachers in

Mathematics, English, and Science

Math, Biology, Chemistry, Mass Com, Com Arts, or Engineering graduates from UP, ATENEO, DLSU with good scholastic standing, hard working, can communicate effectively and has a ***great passion*** for teaching may apply immediately at

315 Katipunan Avenue, Loyola Heights, Q. C.
Tel 435-6062 ◆ 435-6063 ◆ 929-9145

THE WORLD BANK
World Bank Office Manila

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

Preparation of the Urban Shelter and Community Infrastructure Project
CONSULTING SERVICES

The Government of the Philippines has received a PHRD grant from the Japanese Government, in the amount of USD 250,000, for the preparation of the proposed Urban Shelter and Community Infrastructure Project to be partly financed from a loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD). It has been preliminarily agreed that the World Bank will execute the grant on the Government's behalf. The Urban Development Sector Unit in the East Asia and the Pacific Region of the World Bank intends to apply a large part of the proceeds of this grant to payments under the contract for Preparation of the Urban Shelter and Community Infrastructure Project.

The services include the provision of following Consulting Service: (i) preparation of overall project framework (review of shelter policies and programs; development of eligibility criteria for slum communities and local government units; provision of the overall justification of the project that covers technical, social, institutional, financial, economic and environmental aspects; and development of the outline of project operations manual); (ii) feasibility study of selected communities to participate in the project (mobilization of community organizations, assessment of infrastructure needs and preparation of cost estimates; stakeholder consultations of service needs, priority and willingness to pay; preparation of design, financial analysis, economic analysis, resettlement action plans, environment assessment, and financial management procedures for the pilot project).

The assignment is expected to be undertaken within a period of six months starting March 2003.

The Urban Development Sector Unit in the East Asia and Pacific Region at the World Bank now invites eligible consultants to indicate their interest in providing the services. Interested consultants must provide information indicating that they are qualified to perform the services (brochures, description of similar assignments, experience in similar conditions, availability of appropriate skills among staff, etc.). Consultants may associate to enhance their qualifications.

A consultant will be selected in accordance with the procedures set out in the World Bank's *Guidelines: Selection and Employment of Consultants by World Bank Borrower*, published January 1997, revised September 1997, January 1999 and May 2002.

Interested consultants may obtain further information at the address below from 0900 to 1600 hours.

Expressions of interest must be delivered to the addres below by February 17, 2003.

The World Bank Office Manila
Mr. Ming Zhang, Infrastructure Sector Coordinator
20th Floor, Taipan Place Bldg., Emerald Avenue,
Ortigas Center, Pasig City Philippines
Tel: (63-2) 637-5855
Fax: (63-2) 637-5870
E-mail: mzhang1@worldbank.org

MODERN DYNAMICS INVESTMENTS, LTD.

has vacancy for immediate employment

1 SECRETARY
- with min. 3 years working experience
- preferably familiar with finance related business

1 RECEPTIONIST
- with pleasing personality
- able to speak good English
- can type and knowledgeable in computer
- with 1 year experience

1 ACCOUNT CLERK / BOOKKEEPER
- minimum 1 year experience
- holder of Bookkeeping Certificate from any recognized institution

1 DRIVER
- professional with 5 years experience

Candidates must submit bio-data for immediate hiring, with current or last drawn salary & expected salary to:

Unit 1609
ANTEL GLOBAL
CORPORATE CENTER
Julia Vargas Ave.,
Ortigas Center, Pasig City

A FREE-TO-AIR TELEVISION NETWORK is looking for a

VIDEO EDITOR

that can operate the ff. software:
- Adobe Premiere 6.0 or latest
- Adobe Photoshop 6.0 or latest
- Corel Draw V.10

SALES DIRECTOR
FOR A TV/RADIO NETWORK
- Minimum 3-5 years experience in Sales & Advertising required.
- Attractive salary and commission scheme.

Please send application letter with detailed resumé, transcript of records, 2x2 photo to:

3/F Save-A-Lot Mall
2284 P. Tamo Extension
Makati City

WANTED

Trainor/Lecturer

to conduct marketing seminars in direct selling and networking
- Pleasing personality
- College graduate
- Proficient in English and Tagalog

Please call at 426-3673 or 434-0081 and look for Marite for interview and training schedule.

Apply with resumé and new 2 x 2 ID picture.

WANTED IMMEDIATELY

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

A foreign assistance organization has an immediate need for an ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT. The incumbent will be responsible for providing administrative support working closely with his/her counterpart in the organization. The incumbent must be able to meet the administrative requirements of the office independently with minimum input and supervision. His/Her primary responsibility will be to take all administrative actions required to ensure that the financial and administrative requirements of the office are met which include formulating and administering operating budget, travel and transportation budget; maintaining and updating key computer data; performing procurement-related activities; processing requests for general services; and, monitoring of leases regarding renewals, payments, terminations, and preparing other related materials and documents. Minimum educational requirement is completion of secondary school but a Bachelor's degree in business management, administration, and /or financial management is highly preferred or the equivalent of four (4) years administrative experience . From three (3) to five (5) years of progressively responsible experience in two or more phases of administrative management with working experience in an international organization highly preferred. An excellent command of English (both written and oral) is essential. The ability to effectively use MS Word, Excel, and PowerPoint is required.

Competitive salary (including mid-year and year-end bonuses), health and life insurance, and a retirement plan is offered.

Interested persons should send their application letter and comprehensive resume, **not later than February 07, 2003,** to :

Human Resources Division
P.O. Box EA 423
1000 Ermita, Manila

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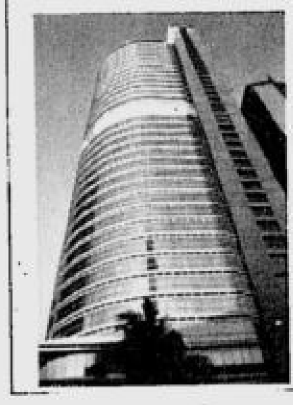

Current positions available:
- **Inbound Customer Interaction Associates**
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  - 1 year previous supervisory experience (in any field) a must
- **Sr. Telco Administrator**
  - 2 years voice over IP experience a must
  - CCNA (Cisco Certified Network Associate) and some call center experience a must
- **Trainers**
  - experience in organizational development a must
- **Facilities Officer**
  - must have experience in building administration

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AUDIT ASSISTANT/ACCOUNTS PAYABLE ASSISTANT
- Male or Female, from 21 to 29 years old, Graduate of BS Accountancy, With at least 2 years relevant experience in audit/ accounts payable, Computer literate

Note: Applicants for Audit assistant must be willing to accept Provincial assignments

AUDIT HEAD
- Male or Female, from 24 to 35 years old; Preferably CPA; With at least 5 years experience in all areas of Audit gained from manufacturing firm; Proficient in Excel, Lotus, Word; Flexible, hardworking and can work long hours; Willing to accept Provincial assignment

MERCHANDISERS
- Female, not more than 30 years old; Graduate of BS IE or any Business related course; Preferably with at least 2 years experience gained from garments manufacturing firm; Computer literate

PURCHASING ASSISTANT
- Male or Female, not more than 28 years old; Graduate of any Business or other related course; Flexible, hardworking and honest; Preferably with at least 1 year related experience; Computer literate; Willing to accept Provincial assignment

PRODUCTION ANALYST
- Male or Female, not more than 28 years old; Graduate of any 4-year course; Preferably with at least 2 years experience gained in a Garments manufacturing firm, Computer literate and adept in preparing reports; Can work long hours

HUMAN RESOURCES SUPERVISOR
- Graduate of BS Psychology or Behavioral Science, Female not more than 34 years old; Must possess minimum of 5 years work experience, 3 years of which must be in a Supervisory capacity; Able to develop, plans and implements HR strategies and programs; Can effectively relate with people in all levels of the organization

All qualified applicants may apply in person or send their comprehensive resumé, recent photo and other credentials to:

CGI
Human Resources Department
Rm. 406, 4th Floor, Executive Bldg., Gil Puyat Avenue
cor. Makati Avenue, Makati City
or you may send your application to: hrd@crismina.com

A school in Manila is in need of high school and grade school teachers in English, Mathematics, Filipino, Sciences, Social Sciences, Technology and Home Economics, Music, and Arts.

Mail your credentials to:
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CPO, Mla., Phils.
Zip Code 1099

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For inquiries and reservations:

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5th Floor Pilar Bldng.,
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Tel Nos.: 813 3000
loc. 501, 502 or 503
Fax No.: 818 1055
Email: addpro@add.com.ph

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WANTED IMMEDIATELY
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SALES EXECUTIVES

come and be part of the sales force of a

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•Graduate of any business related course, preferably a degree in Mass Communication or Marketing.

•Good communication & strong, inter-personal skills and a team player.

•Self-motivated, organized, hard-working, out-going and honest.

•Aggressive and dedicated to selling, presentation, and account management.

All applicants must be between 20 to 35 years old and preferably a born-again Christian. Please send your resumé with cover letter, a recent ID photo, xeroxed copy of Transcript of Records, and your phone number to:

**P.O. Box 408
Greenhills, San Juan 1502
Metro Manila**

TESDA

URGENT REQUIREMENT

UNDP

A public organization implementing a Project on a strategic support mechanisms for women entrepreneurs is in search of an

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Qualifications:

The post shall be occupied by an individual with at least three (3) years experience in government administrative and accounting procedures, preferably under a foreign assisted project. He/she must have at least one (1) year experience in the implementation of technical education and training, preferably in GAD projects and programs.

He/she must possess good oral and written communication skills with networking abilities, resourceful and independent. Knowledge on credit, marketing and technology would be an advantage. Must be computer literate; knowledgeable in powerpoint, publisher and other desktop publishing softwares.

The candidate must have a degree in accounting, business administration, marketing, development management or other relevant courses.

All application letters with comprehensive resumé should reach our office on or before February 14, 2003. Address applications to The National Project Coordinator, UNDP PH01/014 2/F TESDA Women's Center, TESDA Complex, East Service Road, Taguig, Metro Manila. Telefax Nos. 817-26-50 or 818-81-62. (Late submission of application letters will not be entertained).

Our Philippines office located at Quezon City
is looking for a:

FINANCE & ADMIN. MANAGER

- CPA with three (3) years experience
- computer literate
- up to 25 years old

Interested applicants should provide:
1) Resumé
2) Testimonials from previous employers
3) College Diploma & PRC Board Passer Certificate
4) Current & Expected Salary & contact details

Please e-mail to: HR.Box@gmx.net

Or mail to: **HR Manager
Jurong Point Post Office
P.O. Box 914
Singapore 916499
Republic of Singapore**

Note: The successful applicant will work in the Philippines

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- Graduate of BS Accountancy
- Proficient in Window 98 and MS Office 2000 esp. MS Excel
- Proficient in oral and written English
- Touch Typist
- Female, single, not over 25
- Residing near Cubao

OFFICE CLERKS & SECRETARY

- Graduate of any relevant 2-year course at least
- Proficient in oral and written English
- Proficient in Windows 98, MS Office 2000
- Touch typist
- Female, single
- Residing near Cubao, preferred

SALES CLERKS

- At least High School Graduate
- With College units preferred
- Minimum height of 5 feet
- Female, single, 18-22 yrs. old
- With pleasing personality
- Residing near Novaliches, Muntinlupa, Lipa, preferred

Apply personally at:

Cubao Applicants
72 8th Ave. (between P. Tuazon and Main Ave. only) Brgy. Socorro, Cubao, QC. (located beside Araneta Center)
Monday-Friday
from 9:00 am-4:00 pm only

Muntinlupa Applicants
Melvin Dept. Store
Shop No. SS44 2/L Metropolis
Alabang SLEX Alabang,
Muntinlupa City
Thursday, Feb. 6, 2003
from 10:00 am-3:00 pm only

Novaliches Applicants
Melvin Dept. Store
Units 3-6 EVM Bldg. 14 Susano Road Novaliches, Q.C. (In front of Private Market) Tuesday, Feb. 4, 2003 from 8:00 am-3:00 pm only

Lipa City Applicants
Garmas Dept. Store
74 P. Torres St., Lipa City, Batangas
Every Monday, Tuesday and Friday
from 9:00 am-2:00 pm only

CALLING ALL REGISTERED NURSES

- with CGFNS or NCLEX
- Waiting for CGFNS Results
- Planning to take the CGFNS

HCR ManorCare, Inc. with head Offices at Toledo, Ohio, will hold a seminar and interview for Registered Nurses. Those qualified will be sponsored for **immigration to the United States under the I-140 Immigrant Visa Petition.**

HCR ManorCare is the leading owner and operator of more than 500 long-term care centers, assisted living facilities and rehabilitation centers. With employees of more than 59,000 and revenues of more than $2.69 Billion, has made it the preeminent care provider in the US industry. Nurses and their immediate families can choose to settle and work in Florida or in 36 other US States. As the leading care provider it offers highly competitive hourly rates, employee benefits such as medical insurance, paid vacation, etc.

NO PROCESSING FEE/NO PLACEMENT FEE/NO DOCUMENTATION FEE/NO REGISTRATION FEE/NO SEMINAR FEE/NO LEGAL FEE/NO AGENCY FEE.

Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA)/Patient Care Technician/Hospital Aide are also open for applicants with Medical background or currently enrolled in other Medical courses. An I-140 immigrant petition via Labor Certification will be filed. Those who will qualify will be petitioned by another facility/sponsor. Substantial financial assistance awaits qualified applicants. For details/inquiries, call Daisy or Arthur at **(02) 421-3386 or (0917) 844-0161/(0917) 921-9773 or respective provincial contact persons below.**

THIS IS NOT A RECRUITMENT BY AN AGENCY BUT A DIRECT OFFER TO SPONSOR QUALIFIED NURSES FOR IMMIGRATION TO THE UNITED STATES. LICENSED U.S. IMMIGRATION LAWYER WILL BE PRESENT DURING THE SEMINAR/INTERVIEW TO DISCUSS RECRUITMENT PACKAGES AND ANSWER ALL IMMIGRATION CONCERNS.

PLEASE REFER TO THE FOLLOWING SEMINAR/INTERVIEW SCHEDULES:

MANILA - February 8 (Sat); 7th Flr. Oakwood Premier, Meeting Rm# 10, Glorietta 4, Ayala Center, Makati (8-12NN; 1-5PM) *For inquiries call: call Daisy or Arthur at (02) 421-3386 or (0917) 844-0161.*
DIPOLOG - February 15 (Sat); Top Plaza Hotel, Quezon Ave. cor Echavez St., Dipolog (1PM-5PM) *For inquiries call: Ms. Elena Tan (065) 212-8521; (0919) 691-4126*
DUMAGUETE - February 22 (Sat); Robles Hall, Siliman College of Nursing, (8-12NN; 1-5PM) *For inquiries call: Ms. Arsenia Lopez (035) 422-4131; (0916) 956-3940*
CAGAYAN DE ORO - March 1 (Sat); Pearlmont Inn, Lim Ket Kai Drive, Cagayan de Oro (1PM-5PM) *For inquiries call: Mr. Ceasar Tan (0917) 325-7043 or (08822) 729-455; (088) 856-2653/856-2655*
CEBU - March 8 (Sat); Garwood Park Hotel (formerly Park Place Hotel), Fuente Osmena, Cebu City (8-12NN; 1-5PM) *For inquiries call: Mr. Benson Tompong (032) 345-1210/340-0141; (0917) 323-2613*
MANILA - March 15 (Sat); *For details call: Daisy or Arthur at (02) 421-3386 or (0917) 844-0161.*

Limited Seats. Please call now. Seminar is FREE.

Bring photocopy of the following in short letter size paper (2 sets): Passport (marked pages), Resumé, College Diploma, Transcript of Records, CGFNS certificate, US State license (if any), copy of Philippine Nursing License/ Certificate (or other country), TOEFEL-TWE & TSE (if available), ICHP Visa Screen (if available), Birth Certificate of Nurse, spouse & all children, Marriage Certificate, Certificate of Employment, Certificate of Trainings and Seminars, latest 2x2 photo. Place all documents/requirements in a long yellow folder. Do not staple nor fasten. All sheets should be loose. Please have all long paper size documents reduced in short letter size.

IMMEDIATE HIRING

TRAINING SUPERVISOR

- ➢ Female, between 28 to 35 years old
- ➢ Graduate of Behavioral Science or Education
- ➢ At least 2-3 years experience as Training Officer
- ➢ Skilled in the design of training modules
- ➢ Responsible, trustworthy, can work well under pressure, highly analytical and attentive to details
- ➢ Strong supervisory & interpersonal skills
- ➢ Computer literate

TELEPHONE OPERATOR/ CANVASSER

- ➢ College graduate from a reputable school
- ➢ Single
- ➢ Female, not more than 30 years old
- ➢ Good communication skills
- ➢ At least 2-3 years of experience in switchboard operations
- ➢ With pleasing personality and pleasant voice

Qualified applicants may send their application letter, comprehensive resumé indicating telephone/cell phone nos., recently taken 2x2 ID pictures, photocopy of transcript of records and other credentials to:

**Box KA-014-02 CS
c/o Philippine Daily Inquirer
Classified Ads Division
G/F Trinity Bldg., #636 T.M. Kalaw St.
Ermita, Manila**
E-mail: prod_classifieds@inquirer.com.ph
Subject: CS

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tyco / Fire & Security / *Tyco Integrated Systems Philippines,*

Tyco Integrated Systems Philippines, Inc. is a leader in Fire, Security and Traffic Systems. Our business is growing and we need enthusiastic and pro-active individuals to occupy the positions below:

6 SALES ENGINEERS FOR INTEGRATED SYSTEMS (Job Code: IS-SE)

& ADT (Job Code: ADT-SE)

He/she will be responsible for developing and maintaining commercial accounts. He/she shall also perform after sales service with the clients of the company.

Qualifications:
- ➢ Graduate of engineering course (electronics, electrical, computer, industrial)
- ➢ At least 1 year sales experience (selling office equipment, electronic gadgets etc.)
- ➢ With wide contacts and with proven sales track record
- ➢ Has excellent communication and presentation skills
- ➢ Must be computer literate in windows applications
- ➢ Knowledge in fire and security systems will be an advantage
- ➢ For Sales Engineers of ADT, chinese speaking preferred

SR. SERVICE TECHNICIAN (Job Code: FM-SST)

He will be in-charge of the maintenance/ trouble shooting of fire alarms, cctv and other security systems.

Qualifications:
- ➢ Graduate of engineering course (electronics, electrical, mechanical)
- ➢ Must have at least 2-3 years work experience, preferably in fire & security systems
- ➢ Must possess a valid driver's license
- ➢ Must be willing to work long hours

FEMALE TECHNICIAN (Job Code: ML-FT)

Qualifications:
- ➢ Graduate of engineering course (electronics, electrical, civil)
- ➢ Must be personable and must have at least 1 year related work experience
- ➢ Must be computer literate specifically MS office application
- ➢ Must have knowledge in traffic engineering works
- ➢ Must be willing to do field inspection works
- ➢ Must have good communication, organization and negotiating skills
- ➢ Knowledge in driving will be an advantage

Those interested may apply in person. For the technician post, schedule of interview shall start at 9:00 AM or you may send your letter of application indicating the job code and resume with ID picture to the address below:

TYCO INTEGRATED SYSTEMS PHILIPPINES, INC.
#2561 Lamayan St. Sta. Ana Manila 1009
You may also visit our web site at www.tycoasia.com

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2/F Tesoro Bldg.
1016 Arnaiz Ave., Makati, 1223

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IF YOU ARE:
- ➢ Hardworking and aggressive men and women
- ➢ Between 20 to 30 years old
- ➢ At least college level
- ➢ With pleasing personality & conversant in English/Filipino
- ➢ Willing to undergo extensive training
- ➢ With or without experience

Guaranteed basic salary & travel incentives await qualified applicants

Interested applicants may apply personally in business attire with resumé and latest 2x2 picture on February 3, (Monday) from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at Suite 311 West City Plaza Building, #66 West Avenue, Quezon City (in front of Goodah Restaurant)

NOTRE DAME OF GREATER MANILA
Madre Ignacia Ave., Grace Park, Caloocan City

WANTED

COMPUTER TECHNICIAN

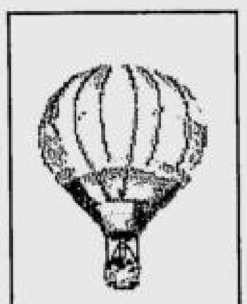
- ✓ Graduate of Two-year Computer Technician or Computer Technology/ B.S. Computer Engineering
- ✓ Male, single, not more than 25 years old
- ✓ Of good moral character
- ✓ With good human relations skills
- ✓ Can work well with minimum supervision

STUDENT ACCOUNTS CLERK

- ✓ B.S. Accountancy graduate
- ✓ Single, not more than 25 years old
- ✓ Hardworking, gracious and able to retain composure/ patience

APPLY PERSONALLY:
NOTRE DAME OF GREATER MANILA
Madre Ignacia Avenue, Grace Park,
Caloocan City Tel. # 361-74-35 local 101

BRING: Transcript of Records, Bio Data, Handwritten application letter, SSS#, TIN, ID Picture (1 x 1)



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Tel. No. 924-6031 to 35 Fax No. 924-0109
Website: http://www.pawb.gov.ph E-mail: planning@pawb.gov.ph

URGENT RECRUITMENT

A project funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and implemented by the Protected Area and Wildlife Bureau (PAWB) of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), is in search of qualified candidates for the following posts, to report directly to the both the Project Manager and Co-Project Manager, and be based full-time in Catbalogan, Samar:

Protected Area Planning Specialist

Technical Accountabilities:

1. Coordinate the preparation of the Project's Annual Operations Plans and Quarterly Work and Financial Plans, and in the monitoring and evaluation of their implementation;
2. Develop a framework for a participatory planning process in the formulation, implementation and monitoring of a 5-year Management Plan for Samar Island Natural Park (SINP), including the delineation of the different management zones;
3. Provide technical assistance to the Protected Area Management Board (PAMB), Protected Area Office (PAO) and Project staff in the development, implementation, monitoring and review of the SINP Management Plan;
4. Assist the training unit in designing and conducting training programs for PAMB and PAO staff in participatory management planning;
5. Provide technical assistance in the setting up of a monitoring and evaluation system to keep tract of the Project's impacts and in the identification of clear indicators for monitoring changes in biological and socio-economic conditions;
6. Perform other functions as may be assigned by the Project Managers, PAMB and DENR

Qualifications:

1. At least Master's degree in National Resources Management or related fields
2. At least 5 years experience in protected area planning and management
3. Very good knowledge and skills in various aspects of protected area management and biodiversity conservation
4. Excellent training and communication skills in Pilipino and English (knowledge of Waray dialect is an advantage)
5. Willing to stay in Samar for the duration of the assignment, resident of Samar is an advantage
6. In good health, willing and able to undertake extensive field work
7. Has proven ability to work with local communities and other stakeholders
8. Good interpersonal skills and track record in providing on-the-job training.

Technical Assistant (for Fauna)

Technical Accountabilities:

1. Coordinate, supervise and monitor and conduct of the Biological Resource Assessment (BRA), including the biannual biodiversity monitoring, together with the other Technical Assistants;
2. Based on the findings of the BRA, identify ecologically important species and habitats, and design strategies for their conservation;
3. Assist in the identification of the different management zones including the formulation of land use guidelines for each management zones;
4. Assist in the preparation, review and updating of management plan and operational plans based on the findings of the biological monitoring;
5. Assist in the formulation and implementation of a training program to strengthen the capability of the PAMB, PASu, LGUs and local communities in biological assessment and monitoring;
6. Prepare the Terms of Reference (TOR) and coordinate the conduct of the biological impact monitoring including the carrying out of a terminal biological evaluation;
7. Assist in the conduct of mid-term and terminal project assessment;
8. Perform other functions as may be assigned by the Project Managers and the DENR

Qualifications:

1. Bachelor's degree in biology or zoology, preferably with a master's degree
2. At least five (5) years experience in faunal resources assessment and monitoring
3. Willing to stay in Samar for the duration of the assignment, preferably a resident of Samar
4. Fluency in Pilipino and English (knowledge of the Waray dialect is an advantage)
5. In good health, willing and able to undertake extensive field work
6. Has proven ability to work with local communities and other stakeholders

Livelihood Specialist

Technical Accountabilities:

1. Review, validate, and update the Livelihood Report made during the PDF-B;
2. Coordinate and monitor the implementation of livelihood related subcontracted activities
3. Assist the LGUs and communities in the preparation of livelihood feasibility studies and proposals for submission to donors
4. Develop and implement a sensitisation program to shift current practices and intensities of resource use to more sustainable levels, based on information determine from sustainable harvest quotas, agricultural practices, and other conservation compatible opportunites for livelihood;
5. Provide advisory services to community members interested in livelihood activities;
6. Conduct trainings and orientations on preferred livelihood options, providing technical assistance in the process;
7. Establish linkages with projects and agencies that can support livelihood activities of the communities;
8. Monitor the implementation of livelihood component and modify strategies, as necessary;
9. Conduct assessment of results and impact and input into the SINP management plan;
10. Perform other functions as may be assigned by the Project Managers and the DENR

Qualifications:

1. Bachelor's degree in Agriculture, Forestry, Economics or related fields, preferably with a master's degree in Agriculture, Forestry, Economics or related fields, preferably with a master's degree
2. At least five (5) years working experience in the design, promotion and implementation of livelihood activities in rural areas preferably in the context of integrated conservation and development;
3. Strong knowledge of conservation fundamentals;
4. Knowledge and experience working with banks, cooperatives and other providers of rural credit;
5. In good health, willing and able to undertake extensive field work;
6. Excellent facilitating and networking skills;
7. Willing to stay in Samar for the duration of the assignment, preferably a resident of Samar;
8. Fluency in Pilipino and English (knowledge of the Waray dialect is an advantage)

All applications and comprehensive resumés should reach our office on or before 21 February 2003. Please address applications to:

The National Project Director
Samar Island Biodiversity Project
PROTECTED AREAS AND WILDLIFE BUREAU
Quezon Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City

Note: Only shortlisted applicants shall be notified.

CAPITAL CROSSING

Capital Crossing Asia, Inc. is a joint venture company with operations in Makati and the US, handling in and out-bound calls. We are currently looking for people with the following qualifications:

- College graduate (for full time) and Undergraduates (for part time)
- Fluent in both oral and written English (US)
- Knowledgeable in basic PC applications
- Customer service oriented
- Willing to work night shifts

Available positions:

☐ **Collection Officers** – minimum 6 months prior credit and collection experience, preferably in the Financial Services Industry (FSI)

☐ **Collection Team Leaders** – minimum 1 year prior supervisory experience in a credit and collection environment, preferably in the FSI.

☐ **Inbound Customer Service Team Leaders** – minimum 1 year prior supervisory experience, preferably in Contact Center Operations (CCO)

☐ **Customer Service Agents** – see qualification above

☐ **HR Manager** - minimum 1 year prior supervisory experience, preferably in CCO

☐ **Attorney at Law** – Philippine based with Board License to practice Law in any state in the U.S.

☐ **MCSE (Microsoft Certified Systems Engineer)** – minimum 1 yr. prior SE experience, preferably in Internet Data Center (IDC), CCO and/or FSI.

☐ **MCSD (Microsoft Certified Systems Developer)** – minimum 2 yrs. experience in MSVB, preferably in IDC, CCO and/or FSI.

☐ **MCDBA (Microsoft Certified Database Administrator)**- minimum 2 yrs. experience in administering medium size MSSQL DB, preferably in IDC, CCO and/or FSI.

☐ **MCSA (Microsoft Certified Systems Administrator)**- minimum 2 yrs. experience in administering medium size Data Center, preferably in International CCO, IDC and/or FSI

Bring your resume to:
Capital Crossing Asia, Inc.
2/F BPI Buendia Center, Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue cor. Makati Ave., Makati City
Or e-mail to: CCAHR@capcrossing.com

SM NOW HIRING

invites career-oriented and highly motivated professionals to be part of our winning team as

ADVERTISING AND PROMOTIONS COORDINATOR

- graduate of any 4-year business course
- with at least two (2) years experience in the same field

CREDIT OFFICER

- Female, graduate of Accounting, Marketing or any 4-year business course
- with at least one (1) to two (2) years experience in Accounting-Finance Management preferably in a marketing or retail business
- proficient in computer software applications

Interested parties may apply personally from Monday to Friday, 9:00 am - 4:00 pm, or send your comprehensive resumés with recent photo to:

SM Shoemart
SM Corporate Office, Building D
1000 Bay Boulevard
SM Central Business Park
Bay City, Pasay City

Please bring 3 pcs. 2x2 colored pictures with white background and photocopy of your Transcript of Records and College Diploma together with the original copies.
Please come in proper business attire.

E-mail: Recruit.SM.HO@sm-shoemart.com

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ASSISTANT SALON MANAGERS

- 21-30 years old, personable & presentable
- Preferably single
- Graduate of any Business Course
- Preferably residing in South Area (Parañaque, Muntinlupa, Batangas, Laguna)
- Minimum of 1 year managerial experience
- Flexible in work hours
- Excellent leadership and interpersonal skills
- Results-oriented
- Can work well under pressure
- Trustworthy

ASSISTANT SPA MANAGERS

- 21-30 years old, personable & presentable
- Preferably single
- Minimum of 1 year managerial experience
- Flexible in work hours
- Excellent leadership and interpersonal skills
- Results-oriented
- Can work well under pressure
- Trustworthy
- Preferably with medical background

MASSEURS/THERAPIST

- Female, 20-30 years of age
- Preferably single
- Must have clear complexion
- With pleasing personality
- Preferably with experience & license
- With good communication skills
- Graduate of any medical related course

MANICURISTS

- Female, between 18-35 years old
- Personable
- At least one year of professional salon experience
- Willing to work long hours
- Willing to be assigned to any branches available

SENIOR HAIRSTYLISTS

- Male or Female
- 25-35 years old
- Personable and smart
- At least three years of professional salon experience
- Willing to work long hours
- Willing to be assigned in provincial branches

ACCOUNTING CLERK

- Accounting Graduate
- Female, 21-25 years old
- Computer literate
- Fresh graduates are welcome to apply
- Personable with clear complexion

SKIN SPECIALIST

- Female, 20-30 years of age
- Preferably single
- Must have clear complexion
- With pleasing personality
- Preferably with experience
- With good communication skills
- Graduate of any medical related course

Applicants may come in their business attire from Mondays to Wednesdays every week, at 9:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m., together with their comprehensive resumé, 2x2 picture and other credentials to the address below:

HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT
DAVID'S SALONS INC.
DSI Bldg. 1251 Cardona St., Poblacion, Makati City

Paz Life Plan
Pioneer Pre-need Memorial Plan Company
Needs one

Assistant Vice President (AVP) For Marketing

Requirements:

- College graduate
- Minimum of two years selling experience in pre-need industry preferred
- Ability to form new selling groups for Metro Manila and provinces
- Articulate, excellent command of English, able to conduct sales presentations, product seminars

Salary commensurate with experience and abilities. Excellent career opportunity. Send resumé with photograph immediately to:

Paz Life Plan
P.O. Box 236 Greenhills
or pazlifeplan@yahoo.com

Needed:

editorial assistant

Mass Communication, Journalism or AB graduate
Computer literate
Has a deep passion for motoring
Can drive a car
20 to 24 years old

account executives

Aggressive and self-motivated
Will stop at nothing to get the nods of clients
Male or female

artist

Highly creative
Can work under minimum supervision
Knowledgeable with Freehand, Corel, Photoshop
Willing to work long hours

Submit your resumé with 2x2 picture at
3rd flr. Solid Ink Bldg., 261 15th Avenue, Cubao, Q.C.
Tel. No. 421-3453 • 421-3448

What to do if you're going to be fired

Dear WW: I have a feeling that my boss is about to fire me. In the last few weeks he's been assigning my work to other people and refuses to make eye contact with me. Is there some way I can prepare?

My Days May Be Numbered

WORKING WOUNDED

Bob Rosner

Axed; canned; coerced transition; decruited; discharged; displaced; downsized; laid off; replaced; riffed; right-sized; sacked; asked to resign; terminated...If the Intuit Eskimos have 27 words for snow, what does it mean that we have so many ways to say you're fired? (euphemisms from the publisher of Executive Recruiters News via the New York Times).

What it means is that today's workplace is more unpredictable than ever. It means that your company can fire you with or without cause (a.k.a. the "employment at will" doctrine). If there is a silver lining here, it's that the stigma is gone from being from being fired because it can happen to any one at any time. It also means that once you're fired you have a lot more options than you think. The days when you had to take their deal and clear out are gone. Today, unless you've committed a criminal offense, you probably have some room to negotiate with your employer.

Here are strategies that can take some of the charge out of being discharged. They were adapted from the Jan. 15, 1996 issue of Fortune.

Keep your cool while the boss delivers the news. Don't scream, don't sulk. Don't even defend your record. Just listen and take notes. Everything said is potential ammunition for negotiating a termination package. (I recently heard about a case in which the boss said, "We really need a man in this position," and the employee cadged a great severance package in exchange for an agreement not to sue for sex discrimination.) By note-taking you'll also send the message that you're savvy and not about to surrender.

Know what you need. Is it:

Cash;

Good references;

Temporary continuation of health care benefits;

Outplacement help; or

All of the above?

Look at your bank account, your employability and what you'll need to rebuild your career before you start to negotiate a termination package. You probably won't get a blank check from the company, so it's important to focus on what's really important to you.

Get some pros on your side. A good lawyer is important. But so are other people who have been fired by the company. They've been there. What kind of package did they get? What did they learn in the negotiation process?

Learning about others' packages can help you decide what to ask for. Feed your sense of self-worth. Two rules I always try to keep: never shop at the supermarket when you're hungry, and never negotiate when you're in the throes of self-doubt. So before you start negotiating, do whatever it takes to renew your self-esteem. Read old compliment letters you've received, call colleagues who you know will say nice things, review past successes.

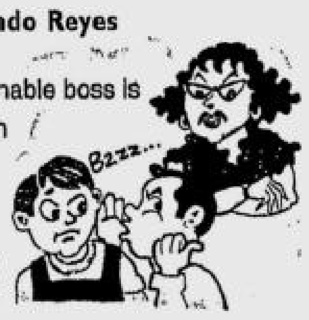
Remember that you're firing is probably as much a comment on your boss as it is on you; you needn't feel devalued. None of this is easy. The company may pressure you to sign their initial offer right away, but you don't have to: you can keep negotiating after you've left the job. Don't wait too long, though, because as your hurt and anger begin to subside, you may find that we missed a word on the list at the top of the column. Rather than "right-sized," "sacked," or "decruited," you may find that you've just been "liberated."

(Mr. Rosner is the author of "The Boss's Survival Guide," McGraw Hill 2001, and "Working Wounded," Warner 2000, a speaker and founder of the award-winning Working Wounded.com & Retention Evangelist.com. He is based in Seattle, Washington, USA. Email him at bob@working wounded.com)

How to work well with a lady boss

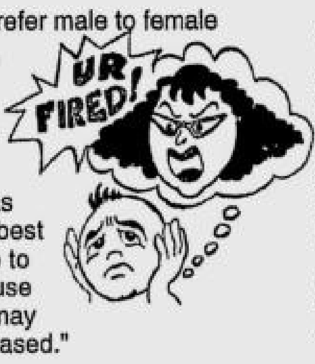
BEST Attitudes

By Teresa R. Tunay
Illustrations by Rolando Reyes



1 To have an unreasonable boss is bad enough. To have an unreasonable female boss is even worse. That's how some people would have you think, especially if they are men working under a female superior.

2 They claim that male bosses are easier to deal with. They're logical, levelheaded, practical and fair, while female bosses are pushy, emotional, petty, too demanding, and tend to play favorites.



3 Employees who prefer male to female bosses say, "Female bosses are like that because they're women." And unless a female boss is exceptionally gifted as a leader, she can at best be seen as someone to tolerate simply because "she's up there and may fire us if she is displeased."

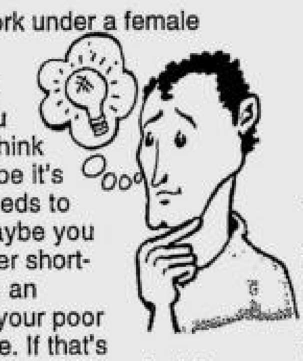
4 Female superiors can sometimes become the butt of jokes among their subordinates, men or women. When she is "being difficult," her subordinates laugh it off as her "monthly sickness," or worse, "menopause."

5 A person can become a good boss or a bad boss regardless of gender. While it is true that there are gender-related differences between male and female, these differences must be seen in a positive light. For example, while a female boss may be seen as "emotional," she can also be more understanding and sympathetic than her male counterpart.

6 She can be counted upon to forgive your little negligence at work because she is patient and, like a mother, never stops hoping you will become better in time.

7 She can readily see your point when an emergency at home compels you to do undertime without prior notice, like when baby, hubby or your housemaid is sick.

8 Your boss deserves respect, not because she is a woman, but because she is a person who happens to be placed above you. You, too, would greatly be annoyed if your subordinates of the opposite sex would not treat you with respect.



9 If you work under a female boss and think she is causing you problems, think again. Maybe it's you who needs to change. Maybe you are using her shortcomings as an excuse for your poor performance. If that's the case, you will never find the "perfect boss," male or female.

10 If there is anything bothering you about her, politely ask to be heard, discreetly. Get your feelings and thoughts out—without forgetting that she is your superior who has also been tasked to look after your welfare.

11 Remember that you need each other in order to get your work done. If you deal with your lady boss with the respect due her position, you will see that she will respond with concern, too. If you show her you trust her being your superior, she will appreciate it, and do her part to earn your trust.

A German manufacturer of stainless steel furniture and punched sheets is setting up operations in the Philippines and seeks the services of experienced and professional managers with the following qualifications to fill these positions:

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- Male with at least 10 years of experience in managing a company
- Solid technical and marketing experience, preferably in the metal, building, construction, and furniture industries
- Will manage primarily the commercial activities of the company, including sales, logistics, purchasing, inventory control, accounting
- Fluent in English and ability to speak German will be a major advantage
- Computer literate

TECHNICAL / PRODUCTION MANAGER

- Male with at least 10 years of production management experience, essential for managing the production facility
- Must have a strong technical background and work experience in the metal and related industries
- Must have the capability to understand, create and modify technical drawings
- Fluent in English and ability to speak German will be a major advantage
- Computer literate

Applicants should submit their CV with photo by email to:

European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines (ECCP)
19F Philippine AXA Life Centre, Sen. Gil J. Puyat Ave., Makati City
Tel: 8451324 Fax: 8451395 E-mail: constantino@eccp.com
Attention: Gerry D. Constantino

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Send Resumés or Apply in Person

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H.R. Dept. Rm. 304
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pacific@itextron.com

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- Provides network technical support to end users
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- Performs network cabling, termination, testing and installation of Network interface cards

EDITORIAL ASSISTANT - Advertising

Qualifications:
- Graduate of Mass Communication or Marketing
- Knowledge in Computer Office and Layouting software operations
- Must have hands-on experience in proofreading and layouting pages

Responsibilities:
- Shall proofread and design layout of the newspaper pages
- Entertains supplement/People, Events and Products editorial inquiries

CIRCULATION FIELDMAN

Qualifications:
- Graduate of any Business Course
- With excellent customer relations skills
- Familiar with the street network of Metro Manila

Responsibilities:
- Shall visit and monitor agents' sales performance
- Handles inquiries and complaints of agents

DESKMAN FOR ADVERTISING

Qualifications:
- College graduate
- Comfortable with the use of computer office softwares
- Must be systematic, organized, good in coordination and possesses excellent interpersonal and communication skills
- With customer relation skills

Responsibilities:
- Handles inquiries regarding ad placements, materials and deadlines
- Takes reservations for advertising using the computerized ad booking system
- Plans the layout of advertisements within the newspaper pages

EDITORIAL PRODUCTION ASSISTANT

Qualifications:
- Graduate of Journalism, Mass Communication or English
- Knowledge in Computer Office and Layouting software Operations
- Must have hands-on experience in proofreading and layouting pages

Responsibilities:
- Shall proofread and design layout of the newspaper pages

Mail your application letter and comprehensive resumé to:

HR MANAGEMENT SERVICES HEAD
Philippine Daily Inquirer
Chino Roces Avenue (formerly Pasong Tamo)
Corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati City

E-mail: recruitment@inquirer.com.ph

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Qualifications:

- Licensed Mechanical Engineer (preferably Mapua graduate) with experience in production supervision
- Knowledge in pneumatics, hydraulics and various types of industrial motor applications with hands-on experience
- Willing to be trained in Thailand
- Must have initiative and good sense of leadership
- Good skills in technical writing and English communication
- Can work without supervision
- Willing to work extended hours
- Willing to be assigned in Sto. Tomas, Batangas

PRODUCTION TECHNICIAN

Qualifications:

- Graduate of Mechanical Engineering or Electro-Mechanical Course
- Knowledgeable in PLC, Pneumatics, Hydraulics and various industrial motor application with hands-on experience
- Can work under pressure with minimum supervision
- Can work extended hours
- Willing to be assigned in Sto. Tomas, Batangas

Our company offers a highly competitive remuneration package for the right candidate and excellent career advancement opportunities. Applicants without the necessary qualifications and experience as well as the drive and ambition to succeed will not be suitable for these positions.

Candidates should send their resumé and recent 2x2 picture to the Plant Manager Makban Road, Bgy. San Felix, Sto. Tomas, Batangas or e-mail at cpacprod@mozcom.com on or before February 10, 2003

For Immediate Hiring!!!

A) Application Engineers & Production Engineers

Requirements:

1.] B.S. Eng'g Graduate preferably Mechanical / Electrical Engineering
2.] Male / Female ages 21 to 28
3.] New graduates are most welcome
4.] Resident of Carmona, Cavite or nearby area are preferred
5.] Highly motivated and willing to be trained
6.] Must have good oral and written communication skills
7.] Can handle pressure and work under time constraint
8.] Can work with minimal supervision and can handle people well
9.] Computer literate, (MS Word, Excel, Auto Cadd 2000) an advantage
10.] Sales experience in construction equipment an advantage but not necessary

B) Secretary

Requirements:

1.] B.S. Computer Science / Accountancy Graduate or any business course
2.] Female ages 20 to 26
3.] New graduates are most welcome
4.] Resident of Carmona, Cavite or nearby area
5.] Must have good oral and written communication skills
6.] Computer literate, (MS Word, Excel, Powerpoint)
7.] A team player and can work with minimal supervision

For interested applicants, you may apply personally with your resumé and transcript of records at 29 South Coast Industrial Estate, Bancal, Carmona, Cavite or you may call at 520-8078 to 80 & look for Ms. Roselle Relatores.

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Qualifications:

- Male or Female with above average intelligence
- With pleasing personality, 20-30 years old
- Good interpersonal and communication skills
- With network communication
- Knowledge of Chinese language is an advantage
- Driving skills an advantage

Apply in person with your resumé & 1x1 photo at:

1174 EDSA, BALINTAWAK, QUEZON CITY
or please call the
Personnel Dept. @ **330-5331 to 50 loc. 216**

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Submit 2 2"x2" photos

Bring photocopies of HS and college transcripts (at least 1 yr. of college)

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We will reimburse your CGFNS fee. We will consider even those without hospital experience. Bring your complete credentials for immediate hiring. If qualified, we will sign you up for TOEFL, TSE, NCLEX at our expense. And we will start your immigration processing asap. (If you took the July & November exams, and you are still waiting for your result, we will consider your application pending receipt of your passing result). Come see our friendly staff.

JOB FAIR SCHEDULE

Date	Venue	9:00 AM - 5:00 PM
Sunday - February 16	Rothman Hotel, Adriatico St., Ermita	Manila
Tuesday - February 18	Dynasty Court Hotel	Cagayan de Oro City
Thursday - February 20	L'Fisher Hotel	Bacolod City
Saturday - February 22	Cebu Midtown Hotel	Cebu City
Monday - February 24	Marco Polo Hotel	Davao City

The Package

- Immigrant visa sponsorship (FREE)
- All-expenses-paid trip to Saipan (NCLEX)
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- NO Agency fee

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Bonifacio St.,
Davao City
Tel. (082) 225-0157

Manila
1633 Adriatico St.,
Unit #16, Ermita
Tel. (02) 404-3438

Bacolod City
PNA Bldg.
1st Lacson St.
Tel. (034) 434-7408

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insync
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The ideal candidate is in his or her mid 30's to early 40's, with a strong track record of selling experience, preferably of pharmaceutical consumer products. He or she must have at least four years' sales or product management experience, and be computer literate. We seek a highly motivated, proactive individual with excellent leadership, interpersonal and communication skills.

The company offers a competitive compensation and benefits package. Qualified applicants may send their resumés, with contact numbers, current and expected pay, and a recent photograph, not later than February 13, 2003, to e-mail address: isi@insync.com.ph or to: Institutional Synergy, Inc., Unit 608, 6/F The Taipan Place, Emerald Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City. (*note: We will reply only to those considered for interview*)

Comlan, Incorporated
TELECOMMUNICATION SYSTEM

COMLAN, INC. a leading importer, distributor and installer of high-tech telecommunication equipment is looking for young and talented individuals to join our workforce

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Qualifications:

Male/Female, 20-25 years old, College graduate, Excellent Communication Skills, Basic Computer Knowledge, Supervisory experience is an advantage, Fresh graduates and OJT's are also welcome

STOCKS/WAREHOUSE OFFICER

Qualifications:

Male/Female, College level or graduate, Experience is a must, Able to relate with other people, Willing to work under pressure

All qualified applicants are requested to submit their resumé in person with recent photo, telephone numbers & other credentials to:

5/F Enterprise Bldg. 524 Quintin Paredes St., Binondo, Manila
(On top of Banco De Oro, in front of HSBC)
Tel. Nos. 241-0963 / 242-3118 / 242-4606 / 242-2520
E-mail: comlan@pacific.net.ph
From Mondays to Wednesdays (9AM - 12NN and 2PM - 4PM only)

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Dome Café is a chain of outlets in the Philippines, Australia, Singapore, Malaysia, Dubai and Indonesia offering a wide array of fine foods and gourmet coffees. We set the pace for new standards of experience in operating cafés.

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228 Ortigas Ave., Greenhills, San Juan, MM
or fax resumé to 721-06-82

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Makati City
Telefax No. 751-5122 / Tel. No. 751-3829/881-1464

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- At least 1 to 2 years of relevant experience
- Unix and C, preferably on Sybase database system
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- Must have 5 years of relevant experience
- At least 25 to 35 years of age

TAILOR: (MALE)

- Must have 3 years of relevant experience
- At least 21 to 38 years of age

SEWER (FEMALE)

- Must have 3 years of relevant experience
- At least 21 to 38 years of age

SALES LADY

- Graduate of any 4-year course or college level
- At least 5'4" in height
- Articulate and with pleasing personality
- Preferably 21 to 28 years old

All interested applicants may apply with complete supporting documents

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Qualifications:

At least 21 to 27 years old
Graduate of Design related course
Highly proficient and must possess creative skills in both traditional and new media such as mock up modelling
Knowledgeable in computer applications such as Illustrator, Freehand, Photoshop and CorelDraw (Flash & HTML a definite plus)
Good communication skills
Should be able to work with minimum supervision

ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE

Qualifications:

At least 21 to 27 years old
Graduate of Advertising, Marketing or any related course
Keen interest in marketing, product line management, design and development of consumer products especially in the premium, giftware and novelty industries
Have a strong product marketing background and able to research using all possible means
Can handle account coordination with clients and suppliers
Able to structure and organize work and information
Must be effective in managing budgets, deadlines and can deliver quality results
Excellent in written and oral communication skills

Apply in person on Feb. 4 & 5 at 9 AM or send your resume to:

2603A East Tower Philippine Stock Exchange Center (PSEC)
Exchange Road, Ortigas Center, Pasig City
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An outdoor Advertising Company is in need of a:

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Requirements:

1. Male or Female
2. College graduate from a reputable school

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Pasong Tamo, Makati City

Work to salvation

By Teresa R. Tunay

"NOW you may let your servant go in peace for my eyes have seen your salvation...." Simeon said to God upon seeing the child Jesus presented at the temple. How admirable that one could simply exclaim to God that he was ready and willing to die after having "seen your salvation"—as though he was born just to wait for that salvation!

Nowadays, when work tends to block our hotline to God, Simeon's sentiment may still have a parallel in hardworking parents. For haven't we heard our own parents saying "*Puwede na akong mamatay, nasa tahimik nang lahat ang mga anak ko!*" ("I'm ready to die; all my children have settled down.") Perhaps, "salvation" for parents means seeing all their parental duties fulfilled. Most parents work their guts out to feed and clothe their children and send them through school; then, when the children have their own families, they sit back and say "God can take me anytime now—my work is done."

If fulfillment of parental duties were indeed a form of salvation, think how important our jobs can be to salvation. Everything that we need to feed and clothe ourselves, to educate our children, and even to marry them off, comes from that little envelope we receive every 15th and 30th of the month. Without work, how can we save ourselves? Cherishing our work, therefore, and doing our jobs well is the least we can do to show our gratitude to Him who gives us the gift of work.

(E-mail the author at avemaria@csi.com.ph.*)*

REFLECTIONS FOR THE WORKING SOUL

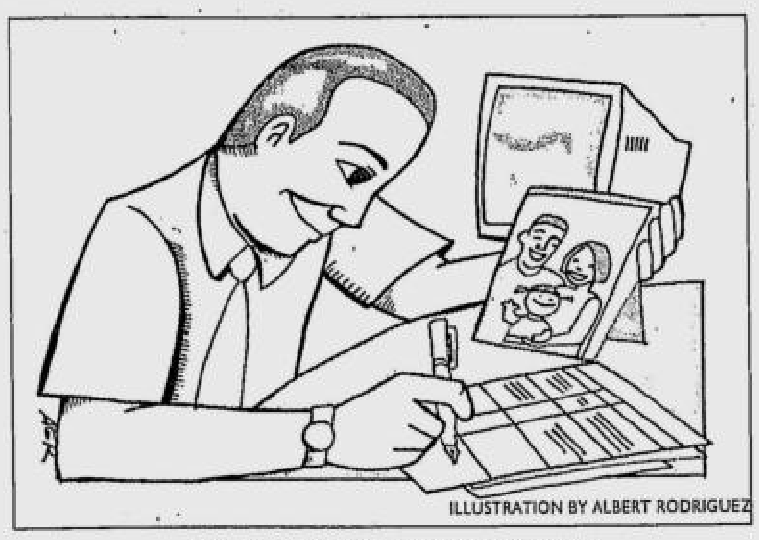
ILLUSTRATION BY ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

Feast of the Presentation of Jesus
Gospel: Lk. 2:22-40

"When the days were completed for their purification according to the law of Moses, they took him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord, just as it is written in the law of the Lord ..."

Families for God

By Bishop Precioso D. Cantillas, SDB, DD

JOSEPH and Mary left their daily work and spent days walking up to Jerusalem in order to fulfill what was written in the law of the Lord, to present the child Jesus to God. They sacrificed their daily occupations just to be together as a family to worship the Lord and do His will. The Holy Family thus showed an example which may be considered by many now as a thing of the past—wasting time on worship and 'missionary work' instead of working hard to earn a living in today's competitive world.

In the recently held 4th World Meeting of Families participated in by representatives from 78 countries, a number of families 'wasting time' were presented to the assembly. A couple, renewed in their relationship with God and with each other, testified that after work hours, their home becomes a 'church' where friends join them in praise and worship and a 'classroom' where they teach their faith.

Some families from affluent countries shared how they abandoned their jobs and became 'families in mission' living with other peoples and sharing their faith and life in other cultures. These are a few examples of families which give hope in today's world.

In a world where intense productive work is seen as the key to material progress and relationships which give genuine happiness are sacrificed in the altar of work, we need families that keep the altar of worship to God and service for others at the center of their homes. We need families for God! *(E-mail the author at* mfvg@skyinet.net.*)*

Real friends....

(From page G12)

Doods concludes, "Given our limited time and resources, our group works happily with the right blend of talents and personalities, united by the power of love of friendship in pursuit of a common goal and shared dreams."

Motivations

What motivated us to put in our time and effort on EVOLVE? Ley explains, "We know that by sharing ourselves, we make an impact on another person's life. It is this impact that drives us to work together on this project."

Jun backs this up with a societal perspective. "This was an opportunity to do my share in improving the state of Philippine education in the country. Two things keep me involved in EVOLVE. First is the impact we were seeing on the 'students' of the program. And second is the enthusiasm of the volunteers. I think that we were indeed fortunate that we were able to recruit good and eager volunteers."

Though, of course, our main focus is service to the 82 children we handle in Libis Elementary School, what inspires me and sustains me to keep on working in EVOLVE are actually the people I work with. The volunteers are dedicated and really love the kids they handle. The teachers in the school are very supportive and I can see how they approach their profession as a vocation. Partner organizations are just as enthusiastic as we are and their vote of confidence in us, despite our being young, is really encouraging.

But most of all, I enjoy myself when I do EVOLVE work. This is fun for me. I'm with friends with whom I share a deep love for our country. Friends who also help each other become better people. Friends who, in their spare time, positively affect the people around them.

Doods sums it up nicely in saying that education is a "liberating process for man, as a means towards perfection. Of particular concern to me is the divide between [the level of education in] the private and the public school. I want to do something, in my own little way, to help bridge that gap. As we move on with the project, faith in the Divine, love for the children, conviction of the goodness of the project and its contribution to the common good of society sustain us."

Hopes for the future

Our hopes for the next 50 years reflect how close we've become. We all hope for happy and meaningful lives, rich with the blessings of family, spirituality and career.

Doods is more specific, "I hope to become the Secretary of Education of our country many years from now. I also want to work with the United Nations in the area of Education. [And] REAL friendship lives on, even if we cannot be physically together, we will still be united in spirit."

Jun says, "I hope that I did my share in improving the country—as a higher education teacher, as a researcher, and as someone involved in an NGO that specialized on basic education and volunteer formation. I see the group still going strong, growing old together, and becoming family friends, the works. These people have become an important part of my life."

As for me, I hope that each of us is able to lead good lives. I hope that each of us will draw from our EVOLVE experiences learning that will help us reach our full potential as human beings, as Filipinos and as professionals. I hope that we all remain friends.

Impact

Indeed, EVOLVE itself has touched each of us in a particular way. Jun explains, "I found the friendships helpful because it got me to enjoy what we were doing. Because we were friends, EVOLVE work did not just become work. It became a common passion we had—something we work on not because we had to, but because we recognized that we wanted to collectively do something about what we all perceived to be important."

On my end, EVOLVE has helped me become more people-oriented even at work. I was trained in a European firm and so my work habits are very goal-centered. Working with EVOLVE Filipinos is teaching me how to balance results with relationships.

Ley adds, "In a volunteer organization like EVOLVE, monetary compensation does not exist. Therefore, the two things that would keep a person going would be the satisfaction of helping others, and the joy of being in good company."

More friends

One of the biggest challenges that we had to face at the beginning of this year was when Ley (who is President and founder of EVOLVE) had to go to Indonesia to work. He needs that experience at this point in his life to remain competent in his chosen field. But he was also playing several key roles in implementing the project. So we had to bring in more people to work as core group and take on those roles. Now we have Moi Go who helps in keeping our finances in order and is also the grade 2 coordinator, Carol Lontoc who is working on the program, Jacqueline Go who helps in our fundraising efforts, Joe Naputo who is Grade 1 coordinator and Francis Faraon who assists in logistical matters.

Looking at EVOLVE today, we believe that even if only one former student comes up to us in 30 years and says that he/she went through EVOLVE ASAP and was helped, it would be enough success for us. If the program raises the living standards of just one family because of that former student, we would know that it is possible to make changes in our society. Then, we can say that EVOLVE has fulfilled its mission well and that the real friendships truly last a lifetime.

(The author is the head for Technology Products and Business Development of AncillaEnterprise Development Consulting, Inc. and chair for Logistics and Solicitations of EVOLVE Filipinos. For inquiries on how you can help EVOLVE projects, e-mail rvdpuangco@ancillaedc.com.ph*)*

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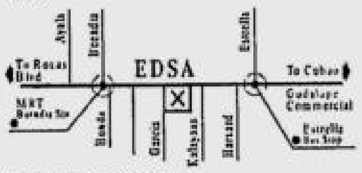

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Sunday PEOPLE at WORK
Contributing Editor Regina Galang Reyes

FRIENDS AT WORK

Friends work to help kids stay in school

CAROL Lontoc (from left), Jaclyn Go, Ria Puangco, Moi Go. Seated is Jun Pedro and Doods Carbungco (kneeling)
PHOTO BY CHITO VECINA

What's inside
Working Wounded page G8
Reflections for the Working Soul page G10

By Ria Vita D. Puangco

(Friendships are connections among people based on admiration and esteem. From childhood to adulthood, bonds of friendship are formed—some bonds are soon broken, others, last; some bonds become obstacles; others provide growth. In work, as in life, friendships can either help or hinder your success.

Thus, starting this issue, People at Work will feature once a month stories of friendships that work in a positive way. These may be of friends in a company who help each other in their personal and professional growth. Or these may be of friends (like the following article), who though they work in different fields and companies, work together in a project that helps others grow. Hopefully, by sharing these stories, we can make friendships—and work—more meaningful in our lives. – PaW Editor)

THIS is a story of how college friends evolved into a network of young professionals passionate about motivating children in low-income communities to stay in school and complete their studies.

Ley, Jun, Doods, Moi, Carol, Jaclyn, Joe, Francis and I are part of this network called EVOLVE Filipinos or Education-Volunteers Educating Filipinos.

It all started with an idea that young professionals can contribute to the development of better-educated Filipinos simply by bringing fun to school. If fun activities were conducted for public school children in the primary level, these kids would be interested enough to stay in school and complete their studies. And maybe, if they did, they would become empowered to strive for a better future for themselves and their families.

Project ASAP

With that hope, members of EVOLVE, a non-governmental organization composed of college students and young professionals, decided to go to Libis Elementary School every Saturday afternoon to implement an After School Activities Program (EVOLVE-ASAP) for 82 children in grades 1 and 2.

We have been at this for two years now and this program has already born fruit in the shape of the EVOLVE Parents Association. This association was organized through the initiative of parents of the children benefited by ASAP. Their intention is to lend support to the EVOLVE volunteers.

At the same time, a number of teachers in the school have carried out "cascading sessions" once a week. Students who get to attend the EVOLVE ASAP share their Saturday experiences with the rest of the class to bring the Program's benefits to a wider audience. Currently, we are meeting with the parents and teachers of Libis Elementary to improve the mechanism and manner of support that we can lend each other.

How it started

How did this all come about? Sometime in the year 2000, Ley Cavestany, who is now a teacher at the Singapore International School (Jakarta) in Indonesia, was taking up his Masters in School Management and got a group of his friends interested in the idea to do something for Filipino public school students. He recounts, "I was fortunate to have school administrators, principals and experienced teachers as my classmates. We all knew that we should take our concern for the country a step further. I invited them to sit down and discuss the possibility of having an education project. I also invited Jun and other college friends. We were around 10 people who met [on the] 7th of December 2000 and we agreed to incorporate with SEC as a non-profit organization, even if it meant that each of us would be contributing P5,000 from our own pockets. We were all eager to involve ourselves in our project and as they say, we were prepared to put our money (and time) where our mouths were."

Jun Pedro, a political science professor from De La Salle University Manila and Chair of Volunteer Formation for EVOLVE, says, "Unfortunately, some of those in the initial group became inactive as we were about to implement the program in June 2001 because of increasing responsibilities in their workplace and other reasons."

Doods Carbungco, who works as director of Finance, Academic Standards, and Educational Management of several PAREF schools and is also chair of Finance for EVOLVE adds, "Not everyone who begins the race finishes it...we found ourselves [in the end] working with a 'few good men'."

Blending in

It was at this point that I entered the picture. Jun asked me to help out in the membership committee and from then on, I was hooked! "The chemistry was wonderful," recounts Doods, "We started to sail again, convinced of the goodness of what we were doing and its contribution to the common good of society... Along the way, the bond of friendship was formed and strengthened."

Of course, it wasn't a straight-line evolution all the way. We were all so different. Jun describes our experience. "It was difficult at first to blend different perspectives. But this also greatly enhanced the ideas that were presented to the entire group. Eventually, we learned to 'specialize' based on our backgrounds."

REAL FRIENDS/G10

SHARE A FRIENDS AT WORK STORY

ARE you part of a group of friends from college or at work who support each other or help others? If so, share your story with People at Work. Tell us how you and your friends face the challenges of the workplace or work together on a project that is dear to your hearts. You can write your story yourself, like Ria did, or a PaW writer can interview your group and write the article. And yes, we will print a photo of your *barkada* in our pages! Send your suggestions through email to rreyes@inquirer.com.ph, fax at (632) 897-4811 or postal mail to the People at Work Editor, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Ave. cor. Yague St., Makati City.

MARKETING BRAND "YOU"

Discover your passion in life

By Regina Galang Reyes

MANY readers have sent me letters asking me to help them find a job fast because they need the income. While they say looking for a job is difficult, it can be easy for as long as you are not choosy with the work you accept. But that's the problem really. It is good to be choosy about the jobs we take because what we do will ultimately determine what we will become.

Intensity of passion

To illustrate, many people, who in their desire to earn a living for their families (which is a noble purpose), get the first job on hand, get the first promotion offered to them, work hard at where they are, and at the sunset of their careers, realize that they are not at all interested in what they are doing after all. Somewhere along the road to earning money, they lost a sense of themselves. The reason? They got jobs, but they weren't fulfilling their "mission" in life. They do what they have to do; but there is no excitement and joy in their work. What's the problem? They lack passion in life.

Richard Chang, author of "The Passion Plan" writes, "Passion...fills you with energy and excitement that gets you up in the morning and keeps you awake at night. When you experience it, you lose track of time and become absorbed in the task at hand. This passion creates personal intensity, uplifts you, and inspires you. It heightens your performance and enables you to achieve things you may never have dreamed possible."

Discovering your passion

So, when you are feeling listless at work and restless in your life, you need to discover your passion in life. But how can you retain and nurture, get and renew your passion for work? The answer lies within your heart.

To know what's in your heart, first, ask yourself, what kind of work makes you feel alive? What activities echo your innermost dreams and aspirations? Observe what animates you or leaves you feeling indifferent. For example, when you think about the sales and promotions projects you can go into, your mind keeps on running even till late at night. However, talking about market research brings you to sleep in an instant.

Second, find out what you can be best at and not just merely good at. For example, you may not have experience acting in front of a camera but suddenly, when you are given a chance to report on camera, you project well. On the other hand, you may know how to write a passable report but it's not your best suit because your heart is not in it.

Lastly, discover what has the greatest impact on your life or what is your "profit" factor. "Profit" in this sense can be measured in pesos and cents and in terms of other benefits that accrue to your mental, physical, emotional, and spiritual bank accounts.

"Circles of Passion"

If you know what excites you, what you can be best at, and what makes the greatest impact on your life, then you will discover your passion in work and in life. This will give you energy to last a lifetime. This is best illustrated by the "Circles of Passion." This is a graphic illustration of my method of how to discover your passion in life.

While it's hard to keep passion alive amidst the ordinariness of our lives, we need to do so. Richard Chang defines the consequences so clearly, "When we act in opposition to our heart, defying our passion, we are left with feelings of emptiness, longing, and unfulfillment. When we rule out passion, we introduce ourselves to a life of regrets, a life of what-ifs." Live a life without regret. Reach for that passion in your work and life and reap the rewards of a life fulfilled.

(Email rreyes@inquirer com.ph *for a copy of the "Circles of Passion" or advice on job hunting You can also tune in every Wednesday from 3:30 p.m. to 4 p.m. to 66.6 on your AM dial for "People at Work sa DZRH" hosted by the author, Reggie Reyes, former DOLE secretary Atty. Benny Laguesma and broadcasters Ruth Abao Espinosa and Andy Verde.)*

sunday INQUIRER magazine
GET TO KNOW SOME REAL PEOPLE
February 2 2003

Cambio

The New Eraserheads?

In the midst of a slump in the music industry, the remaining members of the erstwhile Pinoy superband regroup, with a new lead vocalist and a new working style. Could they be the next big thing?

Shifting gears: (left to right) Buddy Zabala, Ebe Dancel, Kris Dancel, Diego Mapa and Raymund Marasigan

By Eric S. Caruncho
Photograph by Randy Hormillosa

"MY BUTT hurts!" says Kris Dancel as she emerges from Raymund Marasigan's bedroom.

No, it's not what you think. She's been sitting on it for the last four hours, recording guitar tracks for Cambio's upcoming album in Raymund's PC-based digital recording studio. Thanks to affordable recording technology, indie rock is alive and well and living in the suburbs of Marikina.

Cambio, of course, is what used to be known as the "new" Eraserheads. "From the Spanish verb *cambiar,*" chimes in bassist Buddy Zabala, who ought to know, being originally from Zamboanga City.

"Meaning 'to change,'" adds Raymund. "To shift gears. *Sa Ilongo, 'sukli.'*"

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Cambio

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The operative word here being "change." (Or as David Bowie put it: "ch-ch-ch-ch-changes.")

Change is what you get after 15 years of paying your dues. When lead vocalist Ely Buendia left the Eraserheads last summer, the remaining three members recruited Fatal Posporos frontwoman Kris Dancel to take his place.

A lot of 'Heads fans scratched their collective heads over the choice. Some wag even compared it to John Lennon leaving the Beatles and the other three recruiting Lulu to be his replacement.

(Ok, it was me.)

Actually, Kris wasn't that left-field a choice as Ely's replacement. She had been friendly with the band for years, sharing gigs and hanging out in the same clubs. "I didn't feel uneasy," she says in retrospect. "It's a job I know how to do."

Nonetheless, it was still a head-spinning trip for the 22-year-old singer/guitarist, who had been an Eraserheads fan since her college days. In fact, her conservative parents had refused to permit her to attend an Eraserheads concert at the UP Sunken Garden in 1995—the height of Eraserheadsmania. It turned out to be the now-legendary riotous "Cutterpillow" album launch that resulted in UP banning all concerts at the Sunken Garden thereafter.

Of course, parental prohibition is like gasoline to the flame of youthful rebellion. Inspired by her idols' D.I.Y. punk-rock approach—express yourself, later for the chords—Kris formed the ska-punk outfit Fatal Posporos in her sophomore year. Being an all-girl outfit, the Posporos were lumped together with the "riot grrl" scene then emerging (Keltscross, Tribal Fish), but their melodic approach to punk owed not a little to the 'Heads influence.

Kris soon found herself rubbing shoulders with her idols at club gigs, and before she knew it, Fatal Posporos were Eraserheads labelmates. They were picked up by BMG in the major-label signing spree that followed in the wake of the 'Heads' multiplatinum success. It was, in fact, Buddy and Raymund who produced Fatal Posporos' debut album, which was recorded in the same studio where Raymund's other outfit Sandwich was recording their debut album.

"I planned everything," jokes Kris. "I planned for Buddy and Raymund to produce our album, and slowly, slowly I'll work my way to the presidency."

Strangely enough, Kris was a UP film major, as Ely was. "Stalker *talaga ako niya,*" she continues. "Whatever he did, I'd do it too. *Parang* 'Single White Female,' I was slowly becoming him!"

But having her singing Eraserheads songs proved to be an ear-opening experience for the band.

"We were surprised that the whole perspective of the song changes when Kris is singing," says Raymund. "It's different when you're writing for a girl. You can't really change the gender of *'Pare Ko'* but you can change the gender with *'El Bimbo,'* and the story gets even stranger when you change the gender of 'Magazine.'"

It was a gender-sensitivity workshop for all concerned—even Kris. "Sometimes I catch myself talking about things that are too personal, like 'Shit! My you-know-what itches!' Then I have to bite my tongue—I have to remember that these are guys I'm with."

Late last year when E'heads guitarist Marcus Adoro decided to leave to devote more time to surfing, and to pursue his own dreams of a multimedia empire, the band recruited Ebe Dancel, Kris' brother-in-law and guitarist for Sugarfree, to take his place. For good measure, they also added a third guitarist, Diego Mapa of Monsterbot.

With the infusion of fresh blood, it wasn't really the "new" Eraserheads anymore but a whole other animal. Ergo, Cambio.

There's an interesting dynamic to the new band. To begin with, there's the intergenerational thing. At 31 and 32, respectively, Raymund and Buddy are grizzled rock veterans who've been at it since the late 1980s.

"It's hard to give it up," says Buddy. "It's more than a hobby, it's definitely more than a habit—it's a lifestyle: play, eat, sleep. But it's one of the viable options."

"Try not to get a day job," adds Raymund.

Like Kris, Ebe is 22, and Diego, still in college, is the band's youngest member. Both Monsterbot and Sugarfree are from the more melodic wing of indie rock, with a distinct E'heads influence, third- and fourth-generation bands enjoying the space that the 'Heads carved out all these eons ago.

Kris is somewhere in between. Although she's roughly the same age as the younger members, she's also racked up years of experience in the indie rock trenches with Fatal Posporos.

At the same time, Raymund, Buddy and Kris are Parents Who Rock. Atari, Raymund's daughter with wife and Sandwich bandmate Myrene, is two-and-a-half years old, Buddy's daughter Veda is one and a half, and Kris is just about to wean her two-year-old son Kaio after an exemplary period of prolonged breastfeeding. (Not surprising, since her day job is doing research for a women's health NGO.)

Far from cutting into the music, these new responsibilities provide added depth and perspective and a serious work ethic that would have been unthinkable just a few years back.

"There was no system in the first few years of the Eraserheads," recalls Raymund. "*Tugtog lang.* Punk rock rock and roll. Now we have rehearsals, schedules. We've been through the come-what-may stage. Now we have a reason to work, out of necessity, not just the joy of playing."

"We used to have six-month stretches of doing nothing," adds Buddy. "Now there's something happening every day, a lyric here, a lyric there. We're busier now."

All of this energy and experience funnels into Cambio. While Eraserheads numbers still form part of their repertoire, to date the band members have written 20 new songs, out of which they hope to record 16 or 17.

What will it sound like?

"It's like you've graduated to college," says Raymund. "You're not in high school anymore."

And, with three guitars, it should rock more. The song titles alone are intriguing. There's one titled "Corporate Attire," another called "Autopilot" and one in Tagalog called "Patlang."

One might be tempted to call Cambio an indie rock supergroup—if that wasn't so un-punk. All the members are deeply into their other bands: Sandwich will be recording new material soon, Sugarfree just launched their major-label debut, Buddy is currently playing with perennial next-big-thing Twisted Halo (of which Kris' husband is a member), and Kris hopes to record a final album with Fatal Posporos before they disband when their drummer leaves for the US.

But super-group or not, they'll still have to shop their demo around like any other band, now that "alternative rock"—how quaint—is no longer the gold mine it used to be for the music business. When the E'heads ruled the roost, the major labels snapped up bands left and right, hoping to get lucky and strike platinum. Some did, but most ended up with one-hit wonders at best (The Weedd), commercial albatrosses at worst (whatever happened to the Anointed Cherubs?).

Now, taking a cue from Jules Ledesma, it's back to the tried and tested formula for the music biz. Their capital is reserved strictly for sure things, like the Sexbomb Girls. Some labels have even shut down their OPM departments altogether, leaving veterans like Wolfgang and Razorback stranded.

In a way, it's just like it was back in 1989—Ground Zero for the local indie rock explosion.

There's a thriving band scene being totally ignored by a cash-strapped recording industry bent only on "commercially-viable" acts. The only difference is that today, bands can pretty much produce and release their own records in their bedrooms— even if they have to burn every CD themselves. They can upload their own MP3s on the Net. Still, there's no real alternative to major-label marketing, promotion and distribution. Not to mention advances on royalties.

If history repeats itself—stranger things have happened—expect another explosion in a couple of years or so.

Who knows? Cambio might be the "new" Eraserheads after all.

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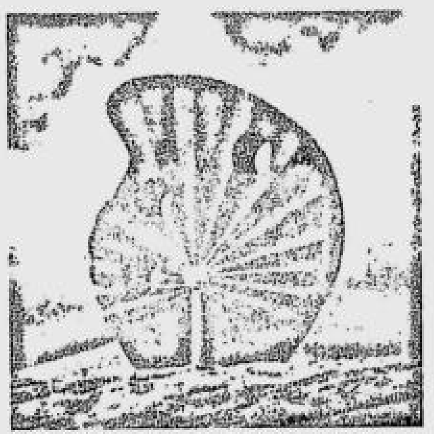


ART FROM GEOLOGY On view at the CCP's Bulwagang Fernando Amorsolo until March 9 is the exhibit "Stone Bridges" by Australian designer and stone artist Robert Johnson, whose sculptures and functional pieces are made from ancient and unique stone from across the continent of Australia. *For more of This Week,•see page 7*

Lust

When you draw near,
glass-winged butterflies
begin to flutter all around you,
encircling your body.

Your mouth opens
In half-greeting, half-question,
No matter which I can answer with
a yes, or no...

No.

One

by one

the butterflies

swoon.

One

by one

they fall

spiraling

to

the

ground.

They shed their wings
and crack their skin,
slowly metamorphosing
to black, plump worms
nibbling at each other's belly.

Then, I had to seal my lips.

Rosmon M. Tuazon

Tato

Sabay nating tinils
ang hapdi at ginhawa
sa bawat pag-urong-sulong
ng karayom sa ating balat.

Saksi tayo sa paghihilom
ng sugat sa ating balat.
Kapwa tayo namangha sa salimuot
ng disenyong ating pinili:
paru-paro sa akin,
rosas naman sa iyo,
sa masinsing pag-uugnay ng kulay
at mga linya na ngayon ay bumabandera
sa ating mga dibdib.

Ngunit nang lumaon,
sabay nating kinasawaan ang isa't isa
at dali-daling pinabura ang mga alaala.

Muli nating tinils
ang hapdi at ginhawa
sa bawat pag-urong-sulong
ng karayom sa ating balat.

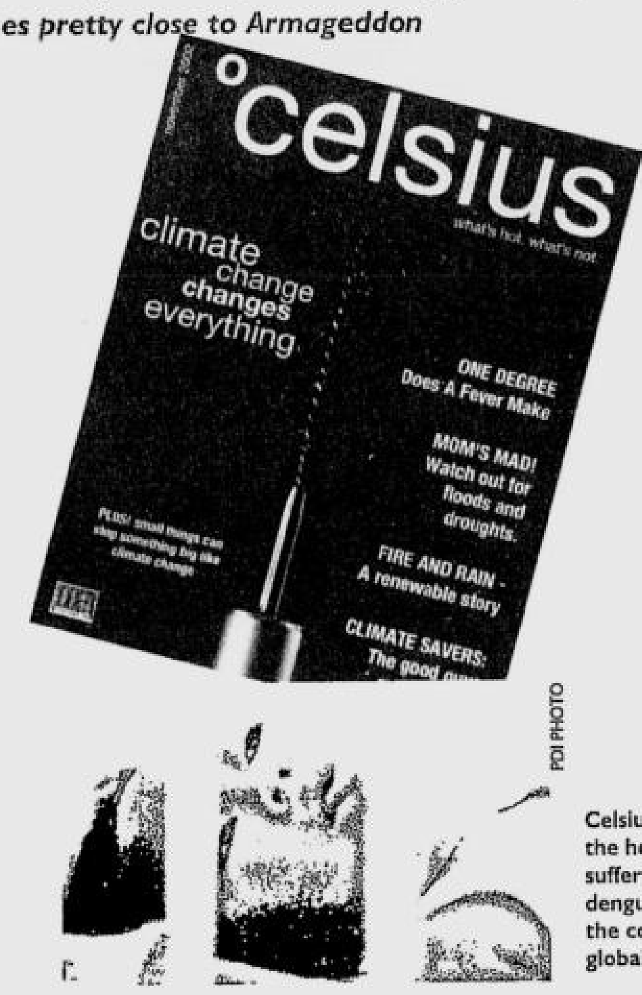
Napag-isip-isip nating walang malalim
na pilat sa taong gusto nang lumimot.

Genaro R. Gojo Cruz

Noteworthy

Pinoys and Climate Change

A new WWF magazine on global warming paints a picture that comes pretty close to Armageddon


°celsius
what's hot, what's not
climate change changes everything
ONE DEGREE Does A Fever Make
MOM'S MAD! Watch out for floods and droughts.
FIRE AND RAIN - A renewable story
CLIMATE SAVERS: The good
PLUS! small things can stop something big like climate change

PDI PHOTO

Celsius Magazine tells the hot truth; a child suffering from dengue, just one of the consequences of global warming

DROUGHTS, floods, typhoons, hurricanes, rising sea levels, coral bleaching, species extinction, outbreak of diseases, water and food shortages—we're talking about life and death here. That's what the World Wide Fund for Nature's new magazine on global change, Celsius, is trying to get through.

In the Philippines, the story gets very personal. Because we are an island-nation, we are vulnerable to the effects of rising sea levels. Scientists predict that the sea will slowly make its way into our waterways, our plumbing and our drinking glass. Once our freshwater goes down the drain, sanitation will go right along with it.

When sanitation gets compromised, water-borne diseases like cholera, hepatitis, and diarrhea will be as common as the cold. Disease-carrying mosquitoes, ticks and rats will thrive in hot weather.

Global warming brings extreme weather patterns. With an irregular climate, crops will fail. A natural weather phenomenon like El Nino will take it toll. Coral reefs, the nursing grounds of fish, will be bleached. With 90 percent of our fish stocks gone, this will mean malnutrition and even starvation.

With 60 percent of our population living in coastal communities, we'll see a lot of inmigration. Our population will be driven further inland and things can get ugly as people compete for food, space and water.

But how did this all begin? Massive stores of coal, oil and natural gas, which took millions of years to accumulate, were dug up to run our cars, our machines, our homes. The carbon dioxide that was released with every use of coal, oil and gas was responsible for the increase in the earth's temperature.

While global warming can't be undone, we can stop adding to the heat. We can urge our government to shift from the use of fossil fuels to New and Renewable Energy resources such as wind, solar, hydro and geothermal. We can also stop cutting down trees, as they do us the favor of sucking in the carbon dioxide. Reduce, reuse, recycle. Carpool. Save on electricity.

We do this not only because it is the right thing to do, but because it is what we need to do. We are saving ourselves.

Celsius, a magazine for the Climate Change program of WWF-Philippines, is distributed through the Starbucks coffee shops in Katipunan, 6750 building in Makati, Pearl Drive in Ortigas, Taft Avenue near La Salle, and at the Madrigal Avenue branch in Alabang.

Ina Pozon

For more information on cool things to do for the planet, log on to www.panda.org

All Access

Text and photographs
by Edwin Bacasmas

The President's Hours

HOW does one capture the nuances of a day's worth of presidential decisions and signatures that can change the lives of the ordinary Filipino?

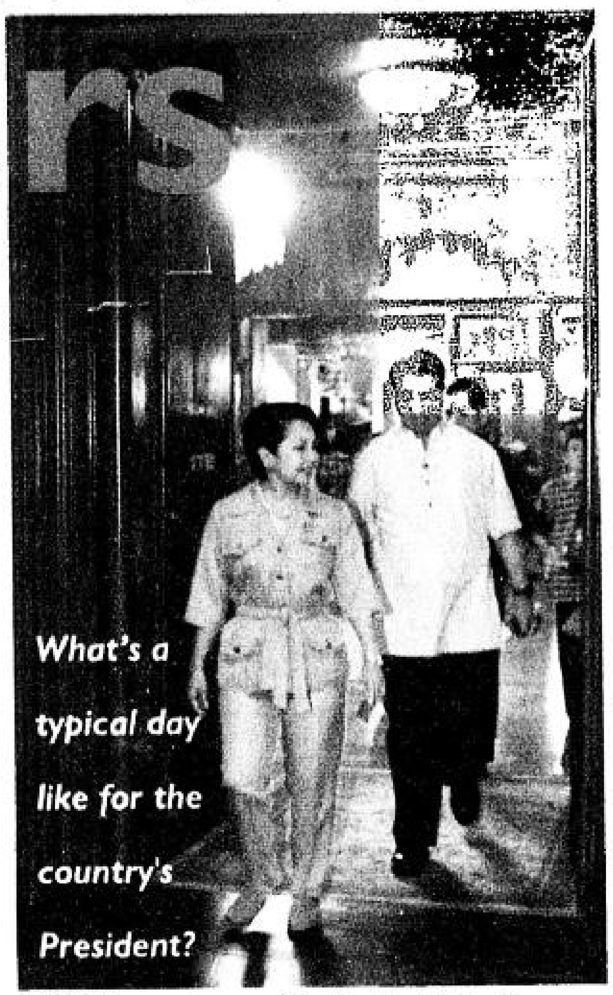
I've covered the presidential beat for at least seven years, so my main concern was purely creative: How else can I portray the President in a manner I haven't done before?

On this particular morning, GMA started her day with the inauguration of the San Lorenzo Power Plant in Sta. Rita, Batangas. On board the presidential copter, her laptop and cellphone proved handy. Without a break, she went on to a NEDA-Execom meeting and then retired to her study for paperwork in absolute silence.

Thirty minutes later, we were off to St. Andrews Cathedral in Parañaque, with GMA onboard a sleek black bulletproof BMW.

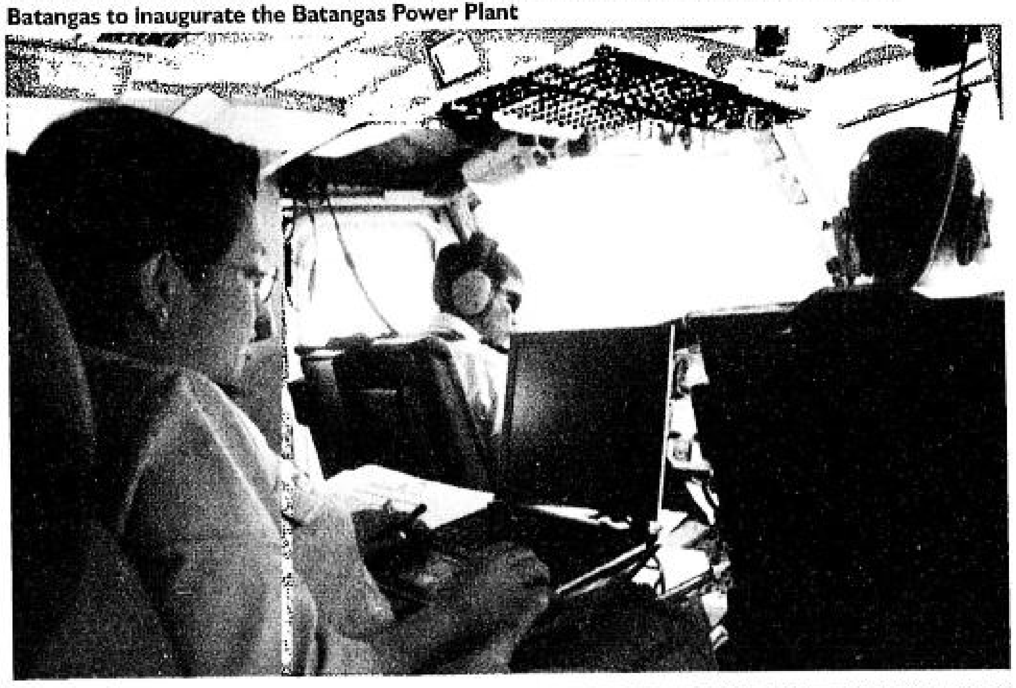
As expected, well-wishers besieged the President, and she happily obliged, even as at least 15 PSG men tried to keep the crowd at bay. A private dialogue with some homeowners in a Las Piñas Subdivision was her last appointment for the day.

Back at the Palace, GMA got off the presidential car wearing a neck brace, the only hint of an exhausting and stressful schedule. Before entering her room, she turned and bade me goodnight with a smile. It was 8:36 p.m.


What's a typical day like for the country's President?

9:19 a.m. Coming out of the Presidential Residence

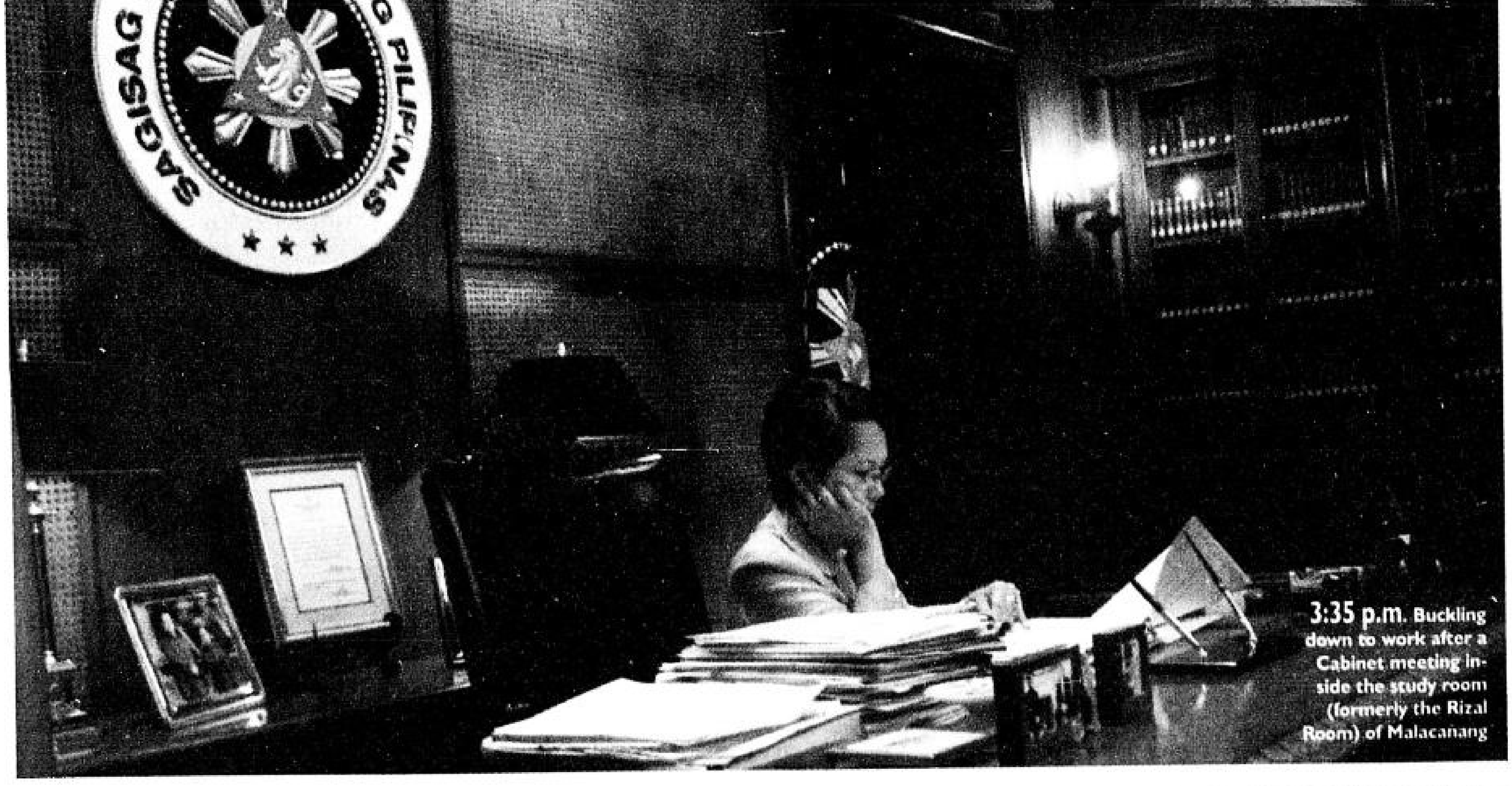
9:29 a.m. Disembarking from the Presidential barge to board a chopper for Sta. Rita, Batangas to inaugurate the Batangas Power Plant



9:58 a.m. Working on her laptop on board the Presidential chopper

12:50 p.m. GMA shares a light moment with her close-in aides and PSG Chief Gen. Hermogenes Esperon (left)

3:32 p.m. Conferring with Secretary Cito Lorenzo after the NEDA Execom meeting



3:35 p.m. Buckling down to work after a Cabinet meeting inside the study room (formerly the Rizal Room) of Malacanang

5:03 p.m. Stepping out of the car upon arrival at St. Andrew Cathedral in Parañaque

6:12 p.m. A moment of prayer during the Mass at St. Andrew Cathedral

8:36 p.m. Walking back to the Presidential Residence after a long day, wearing a neck brace to relieve stress

For a Cause

By Lani T. Montreal

An Anchor for Seamen

How model and businessman Illac Diaz's masteral thesis turned into an all-out advocacy to provide OFWs with a temporary home between jobs

HE CALLS it a social entrepreneurship, this business of providing decent, low-cost shelter for thousands of seafarers in between jobs, waiting for their work papers to be processed (if they have found employment at all), or just trying their luck in Ermita where recruitment agencies abound in constant search of cheap yet skilled labor. Now Kalaw Street may be a part of town where you'd least expect to see a face like Illac Diaz, but it was there where the 29-year-old model, actor and businessman found himself one day, among hundreds of bedraggled seamen baking in the sun.

"It was called a 'serendipity walk,'" explains Diaz, who was taking his masters at the Asian Institute of Management at the time. "A mental exercise for us students to train our entrepreneurial instincts. We were supposed to create a business plan inspired by what we had seen from this walk. For example, if you saw sidewalk vendors, you could think about what you can do to professionalize the trade."

It turned out to be the walk of his life, or at least that's how he describes the celestial stroll where he got to meet and talk to seafarers about their plight. Indeed, in this cyber age of speculative investments and virtual relationships, visions come cheap. Illac claims this one is for keeps. "My family asked, 'Why didn't you start setting up a business first before thinking of helping other people?" (Subtext: Make money now, pay your societal dues later.)

Blame this Atenean's messianic inclination on his Jesuit upbringing. Less than a year after he took that walk, the conscientious entrepreneur defied the oxymoron when he built two dormitories that, for a minimal amount, cater to the needs of often hard-luck, provincial seafarers stranded in the Big City. "I could have turned my back. I grew up with privilege; I went to Ateneo, I have my own business, but I believe that whatever is given to you, you need to give back to the community, to society."

"Urban refugees," he refers to them in his comprehensive research paper titled "The Need for an International Seafarers' Center in Manila," in which he discussed at length the issues that forced him not to look away. In his thesis, he writes how "the Philippines holds 20 percent of the world's ship manning resources and yet it is the only country without a seafarers' center." Other relevant statistics he gathered from NGOs working with Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) include the lack of services available in the provinces ("nine out of 11 training centers are in Manila, as well as 430 manning agencies"), and the massive yearly exodus of seafarers and maritime personnel from the provinces to Manila (90,000 documented).

"The seamen have no central location to look for jobs. They wait in Kalaw in the open air, and stand under the sun all day waiting for the agencies to approach them. They need an affordable place to stay and eat. Some of them sleep at Luneta where they get robbed or they go to Quiapo, where 20 of them stay in one small room," says Diaz. He looks earnest though admittedly out of place in his navy blue suit and burgundy tie among the weathered men in their sando and shorts lounging at the dorm. Illac just came from his other job doing PR and marketing for an advertising agency.

"The government keeps saying that they are the wealth of our nation and the new heroes because they contribute so much to the Philippine economy by way of their taxes and remittances. Eighty percent of their income is remitted to the country! So what does the government do for them? Roll out the red carpet when they come home?"

While the living condition at Corte Real corner Solana in Intramuros is far from royal standards, the men who stay there, sometimes for as long as eight months, have little, if any, to complain about. "*Malinis*, safe *sa paglakad sa gabi, hindi katulad sa* Quiapo, *delikado*" ("It's clean, safe to walk at night, not like in Quiapo where it's dangerous") says Harold Tubod, 24, a Cebuano deck worker, comparing Diaz's dorm to the dilapidated building that Illac investigated in his research. "It seemed they don't clean the rooms at some of these places, so the mats are black with perspiration. The men were getting sick from drinking the water. There is no sanitation to speak of." Pictures Illac showed of the maligned inn make Corte Real, with its screened mesh walls and Uratex foam beds, look like a true haven. It even boasts of a gym with worn-out benchpresses, free weights and a second-hand Nautilus. There is a study area, as well as a common area where the renters converge to hear mass on Sundays or have their pre-departure seminars provided free by NGOs such as the Roman Catholic Church-based Apostleship of the Sea.

Illac spent P4 million of his own money to build this on a privately owned 2,500 square meter lot. In two years, it has grown from a 40-bed affair to 700 beds, with 200 of them housed in a smaller dorm in Ermita. Illac himself designed the rooms, including the bathrooms. Even the bunk beds were specifically built to provide some comfort to the hardworking seamen. "Each foam bed measures 36 by 72. I had them custom-made by Uratex to allow the renters to make a complete roll." Illac demonstrates with his tall, lean frame how he determined the measurements, crossing his hands against his chest and doing quarter turns beside one of the sleeping cabins. There are 10 bunkbeds to a room, five double-deckers with just enough room for a cabinet and a small locker to keep their belongings. In the non-airconditioned foam area, the wind breezes through the screened metal mesh walls. There is also a mat area, where those with even less resources sleep on plastic *banigs*. Prices range from P1,650 a month for an airconditioned cabin with foam beds, to about P1,000 for the foam area and P800 for the matted beds. Daily rates vary accordingly. "I charge them half of what the OWWA (Overseas Workers Welfare Administration) charges them." The dormitory also offers credit facilities and accepts delayed payments from seafarers strapped for cash.

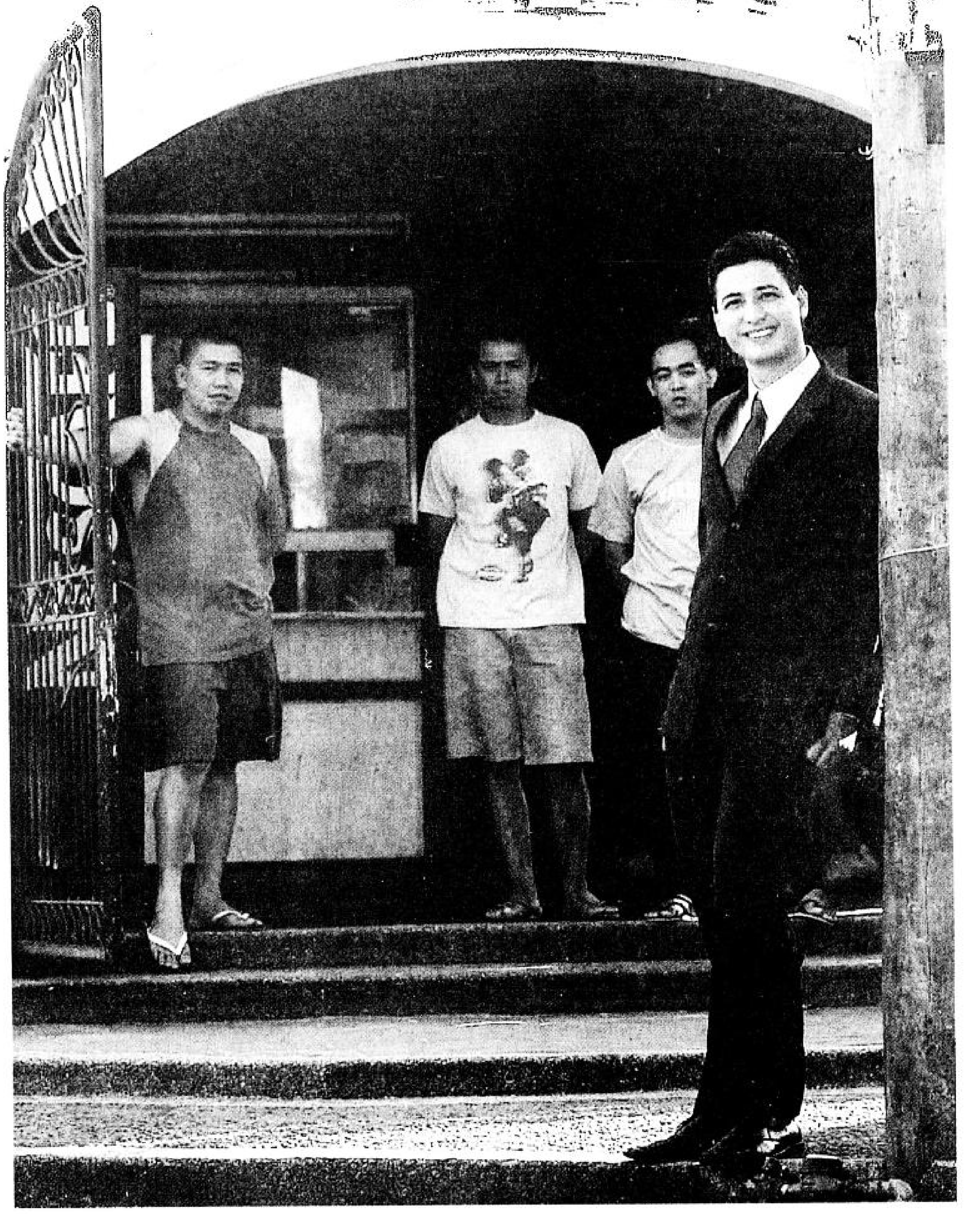
"This is just an experiment to show the government that this is a viable project. It is self-sustaining while at the same time it helps thousands of people," he says. "But it has no future being on private land. The improvements all go to the landowner, and they can do what they please." While he is grateful to have acquired the space at Corte Real to build his dorm, he shares his frustration at having the contract he signed unexpectedly amended in midstream by the owner. "It's making it harder for me to make ends meet. And young entrepreneurs like myself can't go to the Law when breach of contract happens." Aside from the P200,000 monthly rental, Illac needs to raise enough money every month to pay for electricity, water and the salaries of his administrative and janitorial staff, numbering over 15.

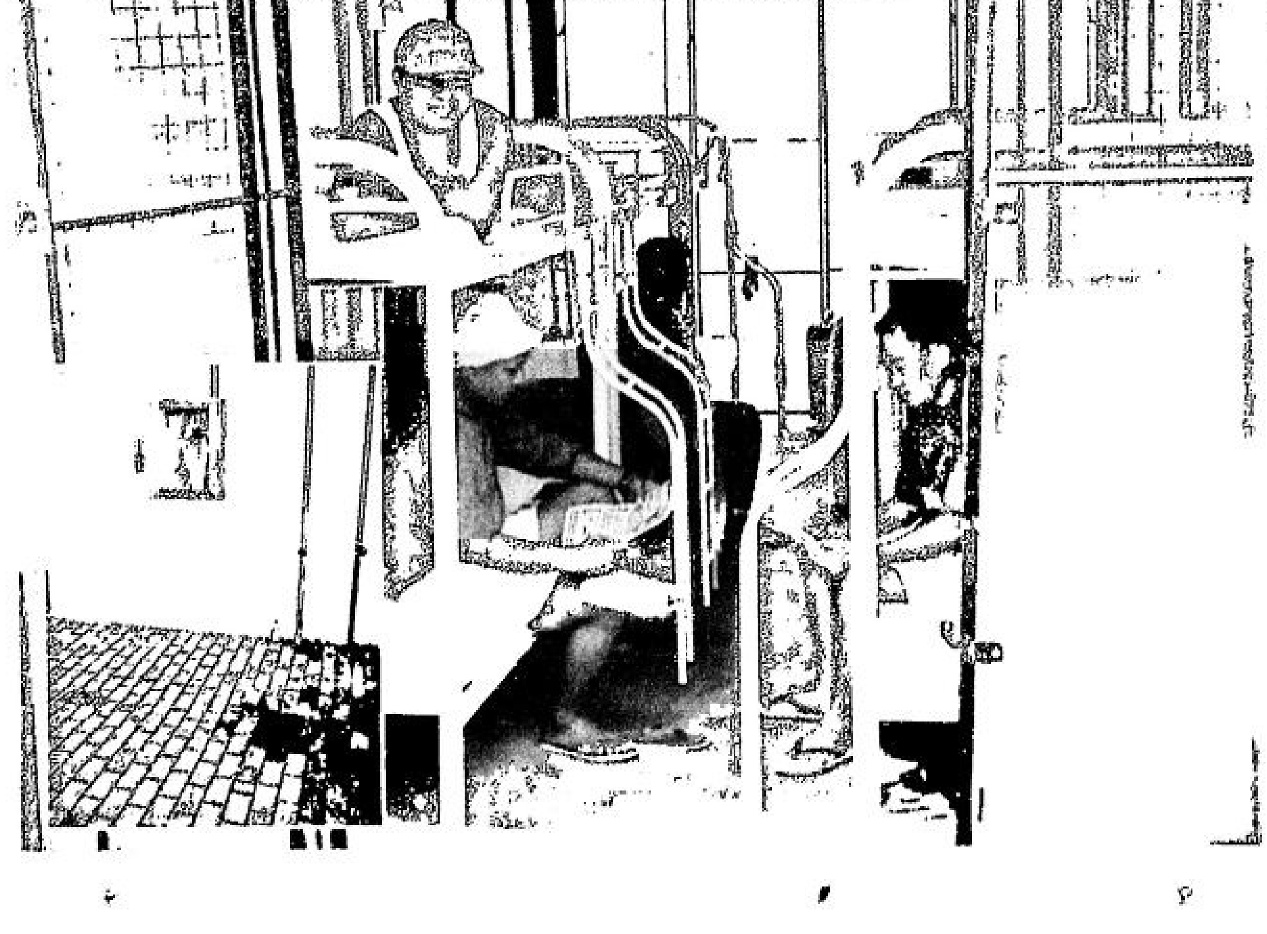
He believes the project will thrive if he only gotsome support from government and the private sector. "Ayala Foundation did not even grant me an interview when I wrote them. President Gloria Macapagal says 'I support your vision.' But nothing has come by way of action. I feel I am alone in this."

Even the renters agree that, they should be getting more help from Malacanang. "The government should be the one providing us with a space like this. We go abroad to work and better serve the country but we don't get any services from our government. Even in Burma, it is their government who helps them find placement," says Edwin Layar, 40, an engine repairman from Cebu who has been staying at Corte Real for two months waiting for his "backer." In fact, when asked to talk about their "issues," the seafarers will go on and on about the oppressive conditions in which they work at the ships, the poor wages, the dangers, the lack of government concern when they're on land, with the same passion as Illac talks about his dream to, at the least, give the men a good night's sleep.

Illac is eyeing a vacated GSIS building two blocks from Kalaw as the perfect space for the dorm, and has written countless letters to get the authorities to hear him out. He still worries, however, about completely turning over his dream project to the government. He notes how the OWWA building, which was supposedly built to also provide temporary shelter to overseas contract workers, has turned most of its floors into

To page 7


RANDY HORMILLOSA



Illac Diaz, above, with some tenants in front of his dorm in Intramuros; at left, the clean dormitory area; inset, broken tiles cry out for more maintenance funds

Stephen Speaks, From The Passenger Seat to Manila

Copyright 2002, StephenSpeaks

Straight from the hottest radio stations nationwide, the newest and biggest band to come out of the U.S. is set to rock the country. SMART's Amazing Rhythms concert series brings Stephen Speaks to Manila! The band behind the phenomenal radio hit "Passenger Seat" from the album "No More Doubt", Stephen Speaks will perform a series of concerts in their first Philippine tour starting next week. On February 5, the band will be performing at the NBC Tent. February 6 will see Stephen Speaks at the Rockwell Tent, February 7 at the Ateneo College Covered Courts, and February 8 back at the Rockwell Tent.

But of course, SMART subscribers will again be the very privileged bunch as SMART gives you the best deals and promos enriching your Stephen Speaks Concert experience. SIM Swappers to the SMART Buddy 64K Super SIM get 1 free ticket per SIM swap at MAGIC 89.9 DWTM at the 9th Floor of the Paragon Building on EDSA, Mandaluyong. Make the SIM Swap from Thursday, January 30, 2003 to Wednesday, February 5, 2003 from 1 to 5pm. 25 lucky winners will be chosen out of these SIM Swappers at DWTM to be included in the raffle for the Meet and Greet Session with Stephen Speaks. You'll have your own intimate powwow with the band which will happen on Thursday, February 6 at DISH Powerplant Mall.

SMART and Talk 'N Text subscribers can win tickets to the upcoming Stephen Speaks performances by downloading ringtones and answering trivia questions about the band. Everyday, Stephen Speaks songs will be played on DWTM, after which listeners will be invited to play the trivia game and download the ringtone of the song. Hits like "Passenger Seat," "Out of my League" and "Doubting Thomas" can all be downloaded, while earning points for the raffle draw. There will be 6 draws everyday, with 3 winners per draw earning tickets for the Stephen Speaks concerts. There will also be a grand draw where 2 winners will get Nokia 3530s.

To get a FREE ticket to the concert at the NBC Tent on February 5, just swap your non-SMART SIM to the SMART Buddy 64k Super SIM at the G/F Cupboard, University Mall, Taft Avenue starting January 31. And if you want a FREE ticket to the February 7 concert at the ADMU College Covered Courts, you can SIM-swap at the Ateneo Campus starting February 3.

You get your last chance to see Stephen Speaks FREE by swapping your non-SMART SIM right before the concert. SIM Swaps from 4:30pm to 7:30pm only on February 5 at the NBC Tent, and February 6 at the Rockwell Tent get FREE tickets.

From their relatively humble beginnings in Jenks, Oklahoma, Stephen Speaks has gained a loyal underground following in the Philippines. Composed of TJ McCloud, Rockwell Ryan Ripperger, Amber Sturges, Dain Samuelson, Blake Howard, and Blake Farmer, Stephen Speaks can trace its beginnings to 1999.

When TJ and Rockwell were getting ready to graduate from high school, the friends toyed with the idea of recording some of their own songs just as a keepsake. After about half the album was done friends started to hear the stuff. As demand for the album (and for concert performances) began increasing, the friends began to go about the business of actually forming a band. Owing to their deep Christian Faith, the group got the inspiration for their name from a billboard on the freeway and it was apt—"Tonight, Stephen speaks". Stephen was after all, the first Christian martyr, giving a speech before being stoned to death. TJ liked the implied meaning. And the rest as they say, is history.

Only SMART can bring international recording artists like Stephen Speaks to the Philippines. SMART is the undisputed market leader in wireless communications, with superior coverage and services, strengthened with over 8 million subscribers on the SMART Network. As SMART gets set to welcome Stephen Speaks to the country, make sure to stay connected to SMART as this is only the beginning of a concert series like no other: SMART's Amazing Rhythms.

**Feb. 6, 7, 8 concerts are already SOLD OUT!*

ADVT.

The Word

By Fr. Ruben J. Villote

Valentine Three

Is it true that we can never love the Other truly without first loving ourself?

Farmer-nun Emma and Sister Sonia (center) with CMY berks, and Fr. Ben (front)

One

February 14 is Valentine's Day. On a day like this when everybody wants to talk about loving the other, to talk about loving oneself would sound "unlovingly selfish." Is it true that we can never love the Other truly without first loving ourself? If you love someone "truly," the gift you give must be your self-offering. When we love truly, we give ourselves honestly. That honest self must be something we trust and is worth giving. Some of us do not love honestly. We hide behind beautiful wrapping paper and ribbons to deceive or impress. But that is not true love. It is self distrust. A lover who distrusts himself is a phony, and a phony is a phony, period.

Self-esteem, therefore, is the beginning of true love. The lover who is not sure of himself and who does not accept himself as worth loving is incapable of loving truly and maturely. His "love encounters" are merely a continuation of his infantile grabbing and survival instincts. But certainly they are not what we want to talk about on Valentine's Day.

The true and mature lover is confident of the value of his love. He knows himself and he respects himself enough to be proud of his self-gift. "Love your neighbor as you love yourself," the Bible says. This may not sound like a pretty Valentine greeting but it will surely last long after February 14. Try it.

Two

The heart is the symbol of love. That's what poets say. But scientists claim that the coronary death rate in cities is five times higher than in the barrios. Sociologists also tell us that the cardiovascular system of people living in traditionally intimate families and atmosphere is 10 times more robust than the cardiac conditions of the jet set living in sophisticated and liberated conditions.

The classic reason given is that the heart easily succumbs to the fast pace of modern life. But psychosomatic medicine offers a much deeper reason. The fast pace of modern life can overwork the heart not so much because of the pace but because of one's confusion in the rat race. Modern life, in other words, connotes a mad rush to the top. Everybody wants to be ahead of everyone else. Everything, from business and politics to fashion and sex, has become objects of cutthroat competition.

We become gladiators in a vast amphitheater, and our main purpose there is to knock one another out. In the process, we become monsters created by a culture of mutual manipulation and loneliness. Loneliness makes us distrust one another. It makes us wear a variety of masks to disguise our inner hatred and fear. Our relationship has become merely functional and perfunctory. We keep avoiding one another, always running away. Our friendships, partnerships, marriages and families have become fragile like our faith in ourselves and our neighbors. We become so afraid and insecure such that we can no longer be sure if we deserve love. Because the human heart is made to love and be loved, its failure to do so can break it.

Dr. James J. Lynch, a specialist in psychosomatic medicine at the University of Maryland Medical School, believes that the answer to the critical heart problem of the world today lies in a stout-hearted reaffirmation of the importance of the family and in an open-hearted acceptance of one another in the form of intimacy, caring and sharing. "There is a biological basis for our need to form human relationships," Dr. Lynch says.

Poet W.H. Auden once said: "Love one another or die." But we have heard that before. Christ was more optimistic when He said: "Love one another and live!" End of Valentine message.

Three

Nobody loves a stranger. To protect ourselves from strangers, we invented padlocks, chains and burglar alarms because we are afraid. We feel threatened by unfamiliar people who speak a different language, eat unfamiliar food, and who worship strange gods. We build walls of hostility and distrust. Strangers almost always make war, not love.

The love month of February is strange to lovers because more and more people and even nations, are becoming strangers to one another. We are living in a world full of strangers and refugees, of people who feel unwanted, mistrusted and left out. We too, have become strangers in our own homes and neighborhoods, our places of work and our churches. We are trapped in a web of competition that breeds mutual distrust, hostility, suspicion and hatred so that we waste our time making masks and building walls to defend ourselves. Husband and wives, parents and children, employers and employees, rulers and subjects, teachers and pupils, co-workers, teammates, classmates, even friends find themselves competing with each other while feeling threatened and insecure. We are imprisoned in a cage of our own making.

The only way to smash this cage is to take the leap of faith by welcoming the stranger and converting him from a *hostis* (enemy) into a *hospes* (guest).

When Abraham received the three strangers at Mamre, they revealed themselves as the Lord announcing that his wife, Sarah, would bear him a son (Gen. 18). When the widow of Zarephath welcomed the stranger Elijah, he revealed himself as God-sent, offering an abundance of food and oil and raising her dead son to life (I Kings 17:9-24). When the two travelers to Emmaus invited the stranger whom they met on the road to stay with them for the night, he revealed himself as Jesus in the breaking of the bread (Luke 24:13-35). The *hostis* indeed, had become a *hospes*, and the latter always brought with Him a revelation, a promise of a new unity and a new relationship. The word "hospitality" comes from the image of a hostile and defensive stranger being received and becoming a "new revelation."

True hospitality happens only when both guest and host break down the walls between them, take off their masks and reveal themselves to each other as human beings both suffering from estrangement and wanting to belong. When they welcome each other as guests, they both create a free space where no one becomes a prisoner anymore, and where they can begin to grow freely, and bear fruit for sharing. Truly, love is never to reject each other as strangers anymore. This is much better than just saying "Happy Valentine."

My two recent books, "Idol" and "My Crazy Dream," are not exactly romance pocketbooks for lovers. But they might still knock you crazy when you read about forgiving the crazy dreamer for telling the truth and loving your idol with a grain of salt. Call 921-3984 (Claretian Publications), 740-3102 (Pauline Bookstore), 732-8268 (Center for Migrant Youth). Happy VD, Beloved! So, there.

CMY Valentine Berks at CASA Rap Restaurant, Km. 90, Sto. Tomas, Batangas. Visit Sr. Emma Alday, the "farmer-nun" who runs CASA Rap, an ecological farm and Arts Gallery where you can enjoy a meal from the earth's harvest. Call 931-8980 (Sonia) or 374-2170 (Angge).

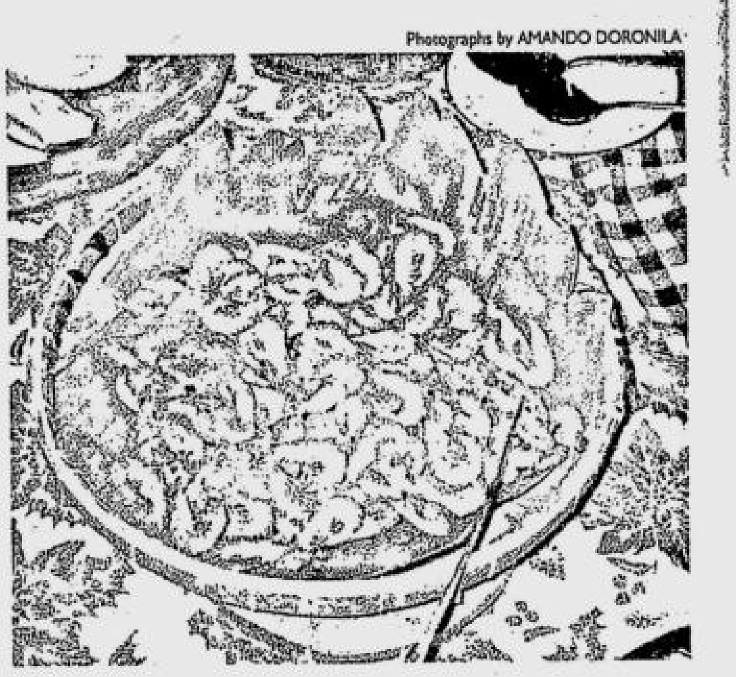
Bon Appetit

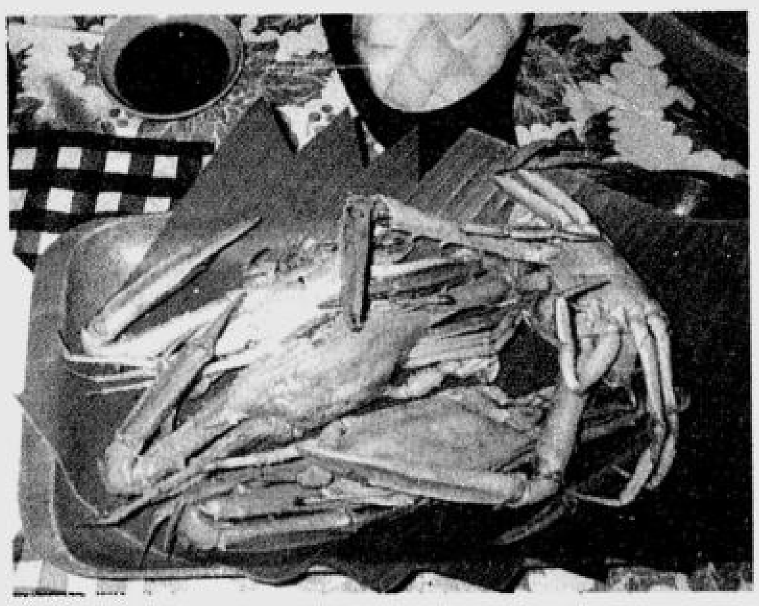
By Amando Doronila

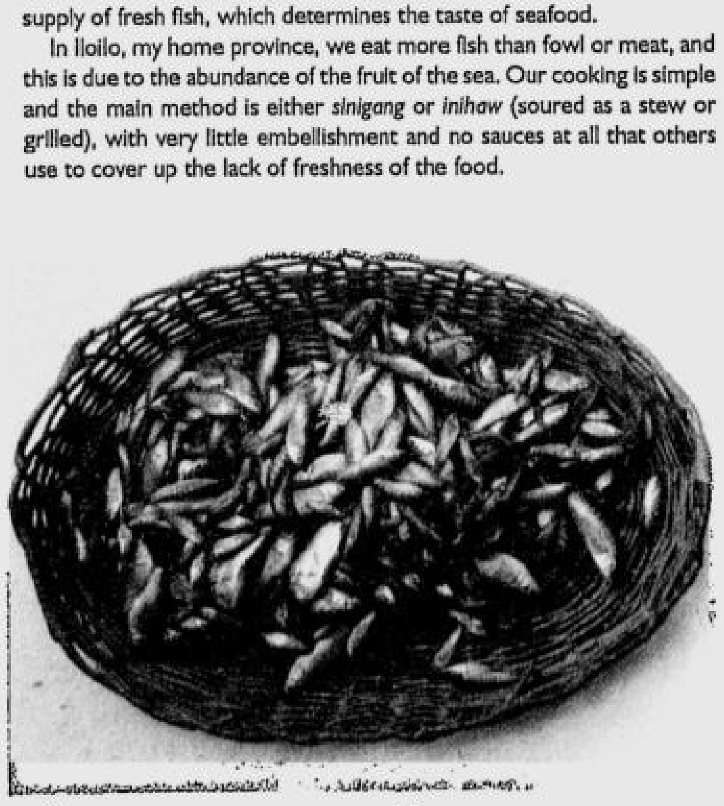
A Taste of Home

Ilonggo cooking is proletarian and comes out best when the mode of cooking is simple, uncluttered and quick

Photographs by AMANDO DORONILA







From bottom left to right; *bontintin, intsik-intsik* crabs and blanched shrimps

WHENEVER I visit a new place, whether here or overseas, the first thing I want to see is the wet market. The market tells you more about how ordinary people live and their culinary tastes than all the glossy tourist brochures churned out by government agencies.

Wet markets in the Philippines have never lost their fascination to me. On a recent weekend, I went early morning after a walk to a barangay in La Paz, Iloilo City. It was Sunday, the day when the barangay multi-purpose hall is converted into a market. On other days, it serves as a basketball court, a chapel where Mass is held and a meeting place—thanks to congressmen's pork barrel which built the hall.

The seafood was fresh. They had come from the Iloilo City Fish Port, where retailers buy their supply for distribution in the public markets. Like the seafood, vegetables and fruits were similarly fresh, but one should not look for gourmet vegetables in this local setting.

We bought sea shells, *tamban* (sardines), Chinese crabs, known as *intsik-intsik* among the local inhabitants, and small fish smaller than one's smallest finger known in Ilonggo as *bontitin*. They have the shape of a miniature *apahap*, which belongs to the sea bass family. If Iloilo (or Panay Island) abounds with good seafood restaurants, the secret lies in the fact that the seas around Panay are fishing grounds, and there is a continuing supply of fresh fish, which determines the taste of seafood.

In Iloilo, my home province, we eat more fish than fowl or meat, and this is due to the abundance of the fruit of the sea. Our cooking is simple and the main method is either *sinigang* or *inihaw* (soured as a stew or grilled), with very little embellishment and no sauces at all that others use to cover up the lack of freshness of the food.

The Chinese crabs were not the ocean crab. When raw, they have a purple color on the shell. They are a cross between *kalampay*, the small crabs that crawl on the dikes of fishponds, and the ocean crab. When young, Chinese crabs are served in restaurants as appetitizers called crispy crablets. We cooked the crabs in the traditional way—putting them in a clay pot and steaming them for at least half an hour, until the shell turns red. The small fish were cooked *paksiw* style. Put them in a cup of vinegar with a few cloves of garlic and just a dash of cooking oil (for flavor) and boil them for about 15 minutes.

Grilled *tamban* was the piece de resistance. *Tamban* is not well appreciated. When we talk about grilled fish in Manila, we think of blue marlin, *tangigue* steak, gindara and tuna jaws. But if *tamban* is fresh (it does not keep well in refrigeration, unlike the fish mentioned above), it is the sweetest and most juicy fish when grilled.

In the kitchen of my sister's home in La Paz, the maid simply cooked the sardines on an aluminum frying pan. Since it takes time to fire charcoal, the maid sprinkled rock salt on the pan to keep the fish from sticking and put the pan on top of the fire. Cooking time is a few minutes (until the scales, which should not be removed, turn brown). The result was a very juicy grilled fish, with no additives, no herbs, no artificial flavoring. Grilling extracts the juice out of the fish. Sometimes, the fish is dipped in vinegar with crushed garlic, but I prefer fish left alone to show its culinary virtues.

The shrimps were simply blanched in a clay pot for 15 minutes, with salt added.

Eaten with newly-harvested upland rice, the viands cannot look for a more harmonious combination.

The evening before, we had dinner at the well-known sea food restaurant in Villa Beach, Arevalo, known as Breakthrough. Everyone in Iloilo and every visitor know this restaurant, as well as its competition nearby, Tatoy's. Our hosts were the officials of the graduate school of Central Philippine University where I gave a lecture at a seminar. Breakthrough sits on the edge of the sea. Its several pavilions are always full, but the menu is pretty straightforward and uncomplicated. When you have a fresh source of seafood, you don't overwhelm their flavor with additives disguised as ornamental sauces. Ilonggo seafood cooking shuns things like lemon butter sauce wiped on grilled fish.

At Breakthrough, we had about seven or eight dishes, of which I shall describe only a few. For *sinigang*, we had sea shells cooked with fish head (red snapper), small string beans and small camote shoots. In Ilonggo cooking, we hardly use sinigang mix. We use *batuan*, a small sour fruit, which gives sourness to the soup and removes the fishiness of fish, although fresh fish hardly has a stale smell. Then, we had *kinilaw* (raw fish marinated in vinegar, small red pepper and coconut milk), grilled squid stuffed with onions, ocean crabs, grillled fillet of red snapper (whose head was used in the *sinigang*), grilled scallops on the shell garnished with finely chopped garlic, and, of course, chicken *inasal* (charcoal roasted chicken).

Inasal is obligatory in Ilonggo (both in Iloilo and Negros Occidental) restaurants. They roast native chicken usually, or partly, free range. Native chicken have a gamy taste, and their flesh is chewy. Ilonggos like their roasted chicken this way and if you serve supermarket poultry-bred chicken, their palates are offended.

As you can see, the underlying flavor and style of cooking lean toward simplicity and allowing sea food to exhibit their own juices and delicacy. There is no place for fusion or nouvelle cuisine (which underplays the sauces for which traditional French cuisine is famous.) Ilonggo cooking is proletarian and comes out best when the mode of cooking is simple, uncluttered and quick.

This Week

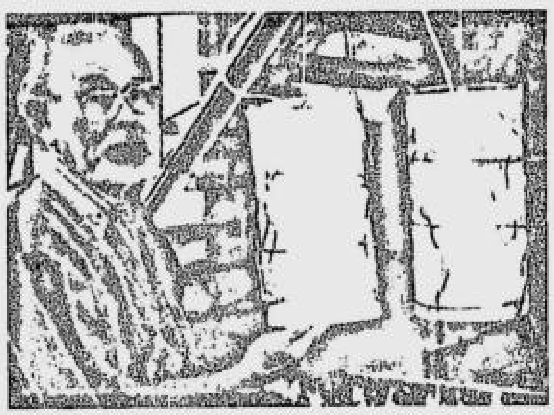
Art

Festival of Lights, a display of over a dozen lamps designed by 14 of the country's leading as well as promising artists, until Feb. 9 at the Grand Atrium of the Shangri-La Plaza Mall.

Houses Under Construction features 15 art works done in various media including timber constructions, paintings in oil on board and oil pastel drawings on paper by Tony Twigg at Galleria Duemila, The Artwalk, 4/L, SM Megamall A from Feb. 3 to 16.

Luna, an exhibit of acrylic on canvas and mixed media paintings and lithographs by Joel C. Mendez at The Big & Small Art Co., 4/L, SM Megamall A until Feb. 17.

***Tubod*: The Arts of Bohol**, an exhibit featuring some of the best examples of art from Bohol like stone tools, bracelets, religious icons, urnas and paintings, until Feb. 27 at the Tall Galleries of the Met Museum, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Complex, Roxas Boulevard, Manila.



National Artist Napoleon Abueva's lamps on display at the Shangri-La Plaza Mall

Onstage

Rhinoceros, Eugene Ionesco's funny and biting allegory about a man who refuses to become a rhinoceros when everyone around him, including his girl friend, have succumbed to the call of the beast, will be staged by Tanghalang Ateneo until Feb. 15, 7 p.m., at the Fine Arts Exhibit Hall, Ateneo de Manila University. For details, call 426-6001 loc. 5056.

UP Playwrights' Theater presents ***Tanikalang Ginto***, an allegorical play that shows the bravery of the Filipinos in the struggle against American occupation, from Feb. 5-16 at the 2/F, Wilfrido Ma. Guerrero Theater, Palma Hall, UP Diliman, QC. For tickets, call 926-1349 or 920-5301 loc. 6441.

PETA presents **Rene Villanueva ... In Retrospect** on Feb. 6, 7, 8, 13, 14, 15, 20, 21 and 22 at 7 p.m. at the Rajah Sulayman Theater, Fort Santiago, Intramuros, Manila. The production will showcase three of Villanueva's most captivating works: *"Watawat,"* *"Walang Iwanan"* and "The Bomb!" Tickets at P200 inclusive of the entrance fee to Fort Santiago. For details, call 410-0822 or 724-9637.

Music

The CCP presents ***Samu't Saring Tinig V***, a concert of winning high school choirs on Feb. 4 at 7 p.m. at the CCP's Tanghalang Nicanor Abelardo. The concert brings together award-winning school choirs, namely, the De La Salle Zobel High School Chorale, the Ilocos Norte National High School Samiweng Singers, Isabela National High School Jubiloso Choir, Paref Southridge Rhythm Section, Ramon Magsaysay High School Concert Choir, the St. Scholastica's Academy of Marikina High School Glee Club with special guest singers, the Kundirana, from La Salle Greenhills. For tickets, call 832-1125 loc. 1800 to 1807.

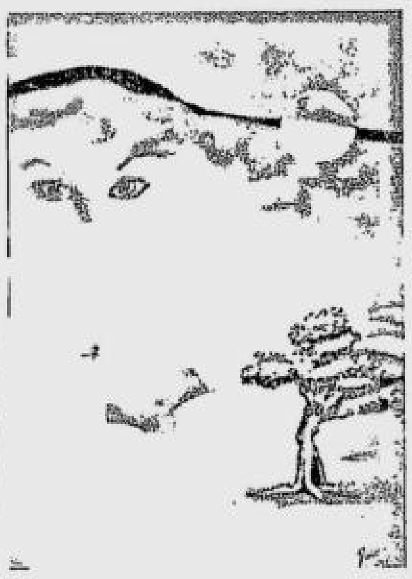
The Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra will present an all-Filipino repertoire in its sixth concert series billed as **Jazz Pinoy** on Feb. 7, 8 p.m. at the CCP Main Theater. Featured artists in the concert are Tribung Pinoy and the PPO Jazz Quartet. Tickets at P800, P600 and P300. For inquiries, call 831-3114 or 832-1128 loc. 1608-1610.

Food Park at the Enterprise of Foodparks by Raintree is offering free, relaxing acoustic nights every Wednesday and Friday, 6:30 to 9 p.m. at the 4/L, The Enterprise Center, Ayala Avenue cor. Paseo de Roxas, Makati City. Band schedule: Light and Easy (Feb. 5), Raegann and Hanz (Feb. 7 and 28), Salt and Pepper (Feb. 12), Maricris (lunch time) and Pop Filter (Feb. 14) and Sixth Cycle Mind (Feb. 26). For details, call 752-5681.

Ogie Alcasid will have a series of Valentine shows at Onstage Greenbelt billed as **Ogie Alcasid OA *sa Puso*** on Feb. 7, 8, 13, 14 and 15 with special guests Kyla and Karylle (Feb. 7 and 8), Jaya (Feb. 13, 14 and 15) plus the Sex Balls on Feb. 13 and 15. Tickets available at Ticketworld outlets (891-5610).

Ronan Keating: Destination Manila, a Valentine concert featuring Ronan Keating with guests Aiza Seguerra, Kyla, Luke Mijares and The CompanY on Feb. 13 at the Araneta Coliseum. Tickets available at all SM Ticketnet outlets or call 911-5555.

The Cultural Center of the Philippines in cooperation with MTV Philippines presents ***Musiko Mundo*: Pinoy World Music Concert Part 2** on Feb. 8, 6 p.m. at the CCP Front Lawn. The concert features Joey Ayala, Grace Nono-Bob Aves Band, Cynthia Alexander, Bayang Barrios, Pinikpikan, Makiling Ensemble and Bo Razon & Grupo Elegua. Admission is free.



"Thru Her Eyes She Opens Doors" by Allen Alesna, on view art the lobby of City Sports Club Cebu

Food

Enjoy sumptuous **barbecue at the Poolside of Pan Pacific Manila** every Saturday from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m. Seafood, steak and sausages are just some of the wide variety of set meals. For details, call 536-0788 loc. 3921.

Feast on **Mexican specialties** prepared and served hot off the pan by guest chefs from Mexico at the Café Plaza of the Westin Philippine Plaza until Feb. 9. Complementing the food extravaganza is a live station where guests can create their own tacos, nachos, enchiladas, fajitas and burritos. For reservations, call 551-5555.

Cinema

British cinema takes the limelight when select feature **films from the UK** are shown at the Shangri-La Plaza Mall until Feb. 4. Films to be screened are "Bend It Like Beckham," "Born Romantic," "Last Resort," "Love Death on Long Island," and Divorcing Jack." The festival has three screenings daily (1 p.m., 5 p.m. and 8 p.m.). Admission is P30. For details, call 635-2079.

The second half of **Decalogue**, Krzysztof Kieslowki's version of the "Ten Commandments," will be shown on Feb. 8 at 1 p.m. at Titus Brandsma Center (24 Acacia St., Cubao, QC). For details, call 726-7763 (Jofti) or 839-7351 (Francis).

The cast of "No Exit," on stage at UP Los Baños

Atbp

Arts Classes at Food and Art Gallerie: Charcoal for Adults (Feb. 6-March 13, Thursdays, 5:30 to 8:50 p.m.) and Print Making for Kids (Feb. 15-March 8, Saturdays, 9 a.m. to 12 noon). Enrollment forms available at Food and Art Gallerie Museum Shop, 12/F, GT International Tower, Ayala Avenue cor. H.V. dela Costa, Makati City. For inquiries, call 810-8407.

The newly-opened **Industry Lounge** along Filmore Street in Makati boasts of a variety of activities and thrills this month: Poetry reading nights (Feb. 4 and 11) featuring the music of Skarlet of Brownbeat All Stars and Aya of Witch Doctors of Underground Improvisation; Northern Soul and Motown nights (Feb. 6 and 13); Erotic painting and photo exhibit at the bar lounge with all-night jazz music featuring Fish Trio (Feb. 20), and Goth Art and Music night (Feb. 27). For inquiries, call 550-1965.

Painter-illustrator Arnel Mirasol will start an **oil painting workshop** on Feb. 8 at the Tata Design Specialist, 2143 C.M. Recto Avenue, Quiapo. Sessions will be held on weekends. Applicants are requested to show a sample of their work. For inquiries, call 231-0193.

A scene from David Kane's "Born Romantic," part of the British film festival at the Shangri-La Plaza Mall

The First Integrated Residency Training Inc. Pediatric Program will hold its **Third Post Graduate Course on Interdisciplinary Out-Patient Pediatrics** titled "A Simple Menu on a Silver Platter," which aims to present a review and an update on simple everyday pediatric problems encountered by practitioners. To be held on Feb. 3-4 at Club Filipino, San Juan. For inquiries, call Dr. Cherry Ordinal or Dr. Eyreen Amoranto at 533-2086 or 531-4911 loc. 326 and 322.

Workshops on **Eurythmy**, an art of movement that integrates and heals the human being with music and poetry, will be held on Feb. 3-14 (except Saturday and Sunday), 2-5 p.m. at the Halili-Cruz Dance School, Quezon Blvd., QC. For inquiries, call Estela (0917-4843495), Shirley (0917-8994395) or Brenda at 721-0091.

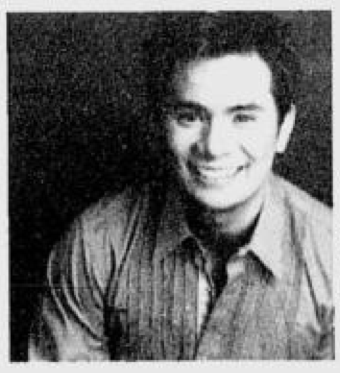
Upcoming **writing workshops** from pinoywriters.net: Writing the Love Story (Feb. 8, 10 a.m. to 12 noon); Writing the Love Poem (Feb. 8, 2-4 p.m.); Breaking thru the Writer's Block (Feb. 22, 10 a.m. to 12 noon); Discovering Your Writing Voice (Feb. 22, 2-4 p.m.). All sessions will be held at the Café Literati, 3/L, Goodwill Bookstore, Glorietta Mall, Makati City. Registration fee is P250. For details, call 893-9079.

The Philippine Educational Theater Association is now accepting applicants for its annual **Summer Theater Arts Workshop** from April 22 to May 18. The courses offered are Children's Theater 1 (6-8 years old), Children's Theater 2 (9-12 years old), Teen Theater 1, Filipino Improvisational Theater and Basic Acting. Applicants are requires to submit a recent 2 x 2 photo upon completion of application forms. Screening and interviews start on Feb. 3, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Peta office, 61 Lantana St., Bgy. Immaculate Conception, Cubao, QC. For details, call 724-9637 or 410-0822.

The UP Film Center is now accepting applications to its **summer production workshops**. This year, the Center is offering workshops in Basic Video Production (March 31 to April 12 and April 28 to May 10); Video Animation Workshop (April 21-May 3); Basic Photography (April 21-26; May 19-23, and May 26-31), and Digital Editing Workshop (May 12-24 and May 26-June 7, limited to six participants). Applications is on a first-come-first-served basis. For provincial applicants, postal money order will be accepted as payment for workshop fees as long as prior arrangement by phone or fax is made. For details, call 925-0286 or 926-3640 or email upfc@yahoo.com.

Free seminar on Opening the Third Eye. Learn how to awaken your third eye and other psychic centers, boost brainpower and develop a magnetic personality on Feb. 8, 2-5 p.m., Room 108, University Hotel, UP Campus, Diliman, QC. For details, call 937-1040.

Adarna House joined hands with the National Centennial Commission in publishing **100 Events That Shaped the Philippines**, a book summarizing the most important events, movements and periods which had the greatest impact on Philippine history. The book features 400 pages of stories and articles highlighted with informative trivia, photographs and illustrations recommended for teachers and students. For inquiries, call Xavier at 372-3548 or email marketing@adarna.com.ph.



Ogie Alcasid holds a series of Valentine shows at Onstage Greenbelt

X-manila

UPLB Thespian Circle will stage Jean-Paul Sartre's one-act play **No Exit** on Feb. 4, 5 and 6 at D. L. Umali Hall, UP Los Baños with matinee shows at 3 p.m. and evening shows at 7 p.m. For tickets, text 0917-4741548 (Boj) or 0919-6772112 (Jerrymiah).

Dreamstates, an exhibit of recent works by Allen Joseph C. Alesna, until Feb. 25 at the lobby of City Sports Club Cebu, Cebu Business Park

For this week's bands and schedules call:

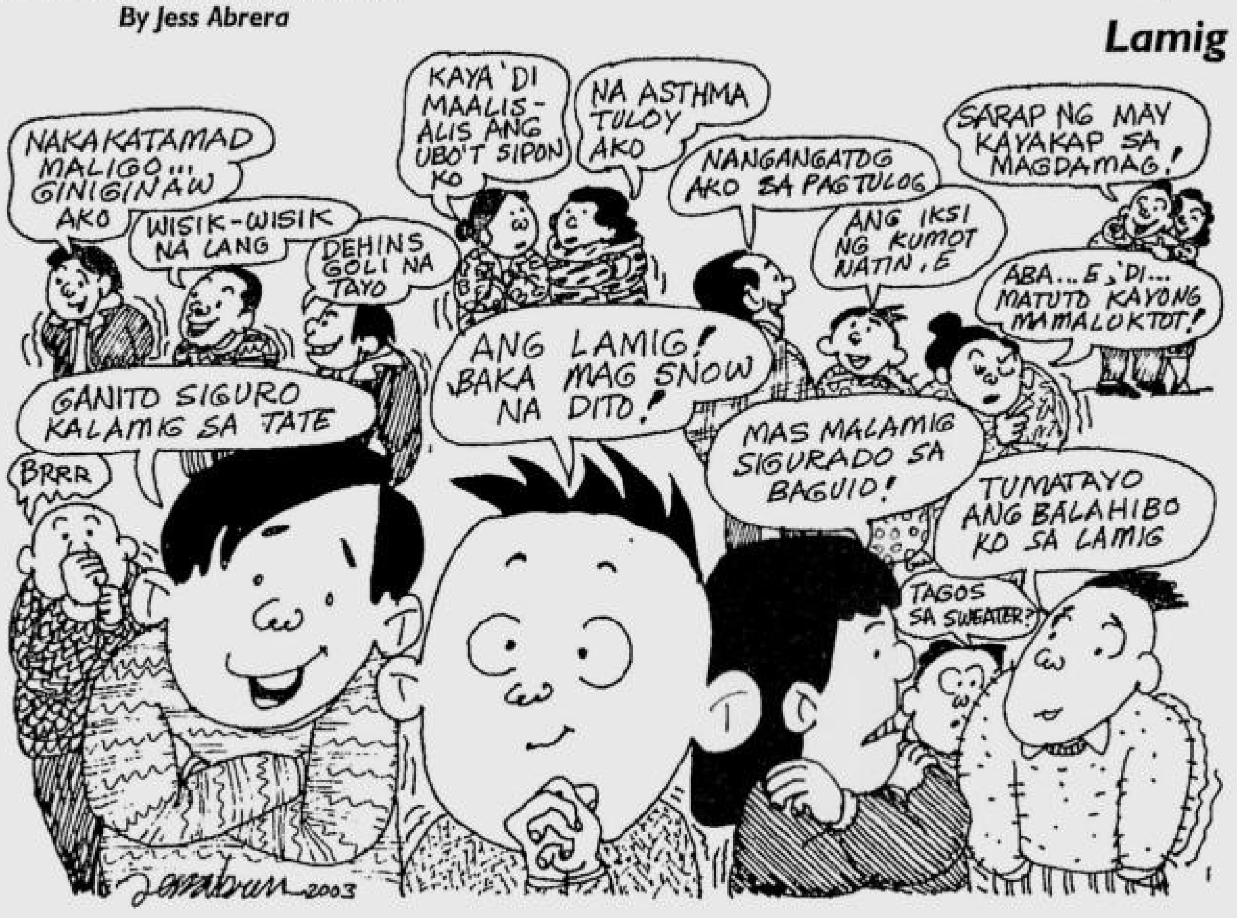
- Hard Rock Café (893-4662-65)
- Virgin Café : QC (926-7982)
- '70s Bistro: 46 Anonas St., QC (922-0492)
- Hobbit House: 1801 Mabini St., Malate, Manila (521-7604)
- Strumm's: El Pueblo, Ortigas (637-3009)

The Sunday Inquirer Magazine welcomes listings of events in and outside Metro Manila. Please send announcements at least two weeks in advance, and include contact numbers for inquiries on schedules.

Pinoy Nga

By Jess Abrera

Lamig


NAKAKATAMAD MALIGO... GINIGINAW AKO
WISIK-WISIK NA LANG
DEHINS GOLI NA TAYO
KAYA 'DI MAALIS-ALIS ANG UBO'T SIPON KO
NA ASTHMA TULOY AKO
NANGANGATOG AKO SA PAGTULOG
SARAP NG MAY KAYAKAP SA MAGDAMAG!
ANG IKSI NG KUMOT NATIN, E
ABA... E, 'DI... MATUTO KAYONG MAMALOKTOT!
GANITO SIGURO KALAMIG SA TATE
ANG LAMIG! BAKA MAG SNOW NA DITO!
MAS MALAMIG SIGURADO SA BAGUIO!
TUMATAYO ANG BALAHIBO KO SA LAMIG
BRRR
TAGOS SA SWEATER?
2003

An Anchor

...from page 4

administrative offices. "Ideally, the government should take over. But perhaps maintaining its management in private hands will assure quality service for the renters."

A typical day for Illac begins at 7 a.m. when he goes to Corte Real to check the number of people who have checked in, look over bills, sign checks, and visit the renters to ask if they have any problems with the space. He meets with his staff and makes sure that the work is done. "I am very particular about the bathroom and the beds. And if the renters have concerns about the place, they can reach me directly. I give them my cellphone number."

At 10-10:30 a.m., Illac leaves for work as consultant for an international business consulting firm, and/or do some marketing for his advertising company. In between, he socializes with friends and works out at a gym. He hasn't completely turned his back on modeling and acting, having done 30 print commercials and two movies in his lifetime. "I face whatever challenge comes my way." But politics, he claims, is not in his agenda, despite all the politicking he's encountered in having his dormitory project built.

At the end of the day, if it ever ends, he goes to bed and sleeps the sleep of the righteous, believing that he is not, as he quotes T.S. Eliot describing those who only pass and take up space on this planet, a "hollow man."

"I had the opportunity to take part in great change and I'm proud to say that I took it."

Illac Diaz is seeking much-needed assistance in creating the first OFW Seaman's Dorm. This is a proven socially and economically viable project; he just needs help with the GSIS. If you'd like to do your bit for our OFWs and still get involved in a good venture, contact him at 0918-9403513 or e-mail illac_diaz@hotmail.com.

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Catering & Gourmet Cooking
Child Day Care
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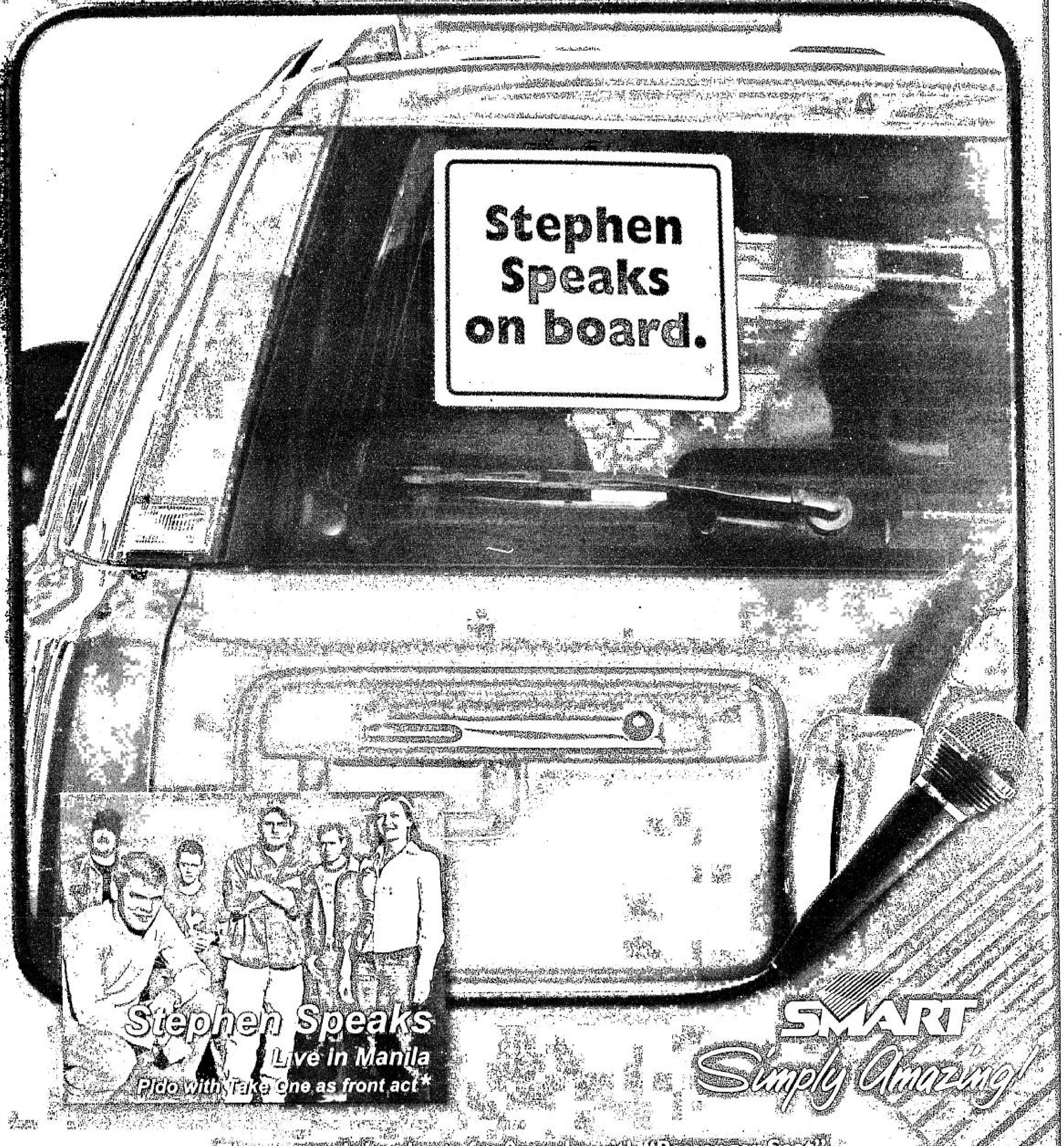
Computer Programming
Computer Engineering
Computer Fundamentals/Basic Programming
Dental Assistant
Diesel Mechanic
Dressmaking/Pattern-Cutting & Design
Effective English
Electric Motor Repairman
Electronic Instrumentation & Control
Electronic Service Technician
Electronics Engineering
English Proficiency & Speech Improvement
Executive Assistant
Fitness & Nutrition
Freelance Journalism
Freelance Writer
General Drafting
Gunsmith
Hotel & Restaurant Management
Industrial Instrumentation & Process Control Technician
Industrial Management
Interior Decorator
Interior Design
Inventory Management & Control
Java Programmer
Marketing Management
Master Electrician
Master Motorcycle Repair
Mathematics Review Course
PC Fundamentals
Personal Computer Repair
Power Plant Engineering
Practical English
Professional Secretary
Professional Electrician
Public Relations
Short Story Writing
Small Business Management
Structural Engineering
Teacher Aide
Technical Writing
Telecommunications Technician
TV/VCR Repair
Visual Basic Programmer
Visual C++ Programmer
Web Page Designer

USA DEGREE PROGRAMS
Accounting
Applied Computer Science
Business Management Engineering
Electrical Engineering
Electronics Technology
Hospitality Management
Industrial Engineering
Mechanical Engineering

HIGH SCHOOL (YEAR 1 TO 4)

MEMBER: PANA Truth in Advertising

Simply fasten your seatbelt.



Stephen Speaks
Live in Manila
Pido with Take One as front act*

SMART
Simply Amazing!

They topped the charts for 8 weeks with 'Passenger Seat'.
Their other single 'Out of My League' is racing up the charts as well. And they're coming to Manila!

And that's just a taste of things to come in our series of concerts for 2003 with SMART's Amazing Rhythms. So be SMART!

NBC Tent, Bonifacio Global City - February 5 > Ateneo College Covered Courts - February 7
Rockwell Tent - February 6 & 8

And here's your chance to win FREE tickets and more cool prizes!

FOR SMART SUBSCRIBERS:

Keep your ear tuned to Magic 89.9 DWTM from Jan. 29 to Feb. 5. Play the 'Stephen Speaks' Trivia Game and get a chance to win 2 tickets to the Feb. 8 concert at the Rockwell Tent.

Simply key in **WIN TIX** and send to 209.

If you don't win in the daily game, you can win in the Grand Finals on Feb. 8. The top 2 scorers will each win a brand new Nokia 3530. So keep playing everyday.

Talk 'N Text subscribers are also qualified to join the trivia game.

[illegible]

FOR NON SMART SUBSCRIBERS:

SIM swap to a SMART Buddy 64K Super SIM at the following venues to instantly get a free ticket:

- Magic 89.9 DWTM Office located at the 9th Floor Paragon Bldg., EDSA, Mandaluyong City on Jan. 30 to Feb. 5, 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm to get a FREE ticket to the Feb. 5 & 6 concerts.
- Be one of the 25 lucky subscribers picked via a raffle for a private session with the band on Feb. 6, 4:00 pm at Dish, Power Plant Mall.
- At the NBC Tent, from 4:30 pm - 7:30 pm on Feb. 5.
- At the Rockwell Tent, from 4:30 pm - 7:30 pm on Feb. 6.
- At the Ateneo College Campus, starting Jan. 31, to get a FREE ticket to the Ateneo concert.
- At Cupboard, G/F University Mall, Taft Avenue, starting Jan. 31, to get a FREE ticket to the NBC Tent concert.

Don't miss it. It's a chance of a lifetime. Be sure you SIM swap to SMART.

[illegible]

Magic 89.9 ASIAN EVENTS Entertainment Gateway Group

Questions? Comments? Concerns? Call the SMART Hotline at 888-1111 [illegible] e-mail us at customercare@smart.com.ph, or visit the SMART Wireless Center [illegible]